

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INSTITUTIONAL PERJURY

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, on October 18, 1995, Thomas A. Busey, then Chief of the National Firearms Act Branch of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms—hereafter BATF—made a videotaped training presentation to BATF headquarters personnel during a rolcall training session. Rolloff training is weekly or periodic in-house training for BATF officials—a routine show and tell whereby bureaucrats learn about each other's duties and functions.

Busey's National Firearms Act Branch administers the National Firearms Act of 1934,* the taxation and regulatory scheme governing machineguns, silencers, short-barreled rifles and shotguns, destructive devices, and so forth. In his capacity of NFA Branch, Chief Busey was the official custodian of the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record—hereafter NFR&TR—mandated by 26 U.S.C. § 5841.

Busey's presentation was anything but normal, routine, or customary. In describing the NFR&TR, Busey made the startling revelation that officials under his supervision routinely perjure themselves when testifying in court about the accuracy of the NFR&TR.

Every prosecution and forfeiture action brought by the United States and involving an allegedly unregistered NFA firearm requires testimony under oath by a duly authorized custodian of the NFR&TR that after a diligent search of the official records of which he/she is custodian, no record of the registration of the firearm in question was found—or was found but showed a different registrant than the person being prosecuted.² An alternative method of proving the same facts is by admission into evidence of a certified copy under official Treasury Department seal of a similar written declaration by the custodian.³ This is a critical element of the Government's proof, and, according to Busey, occurred 880 times in 1995 alone, presumably fiscal year 1995.

Busey began his rolcall presentation by acknowledging that "Our first and main responsibility is to make accurate entries and to maintain accuracy of the NFR&TR." Moments later Busey makes the astonishing statement that "when we testify in court, we testify that the data base is 100 percent accurate. That's what we testify to, and we will always testify to that. As you probably well know, that may not be 100 percent true."

Busey then goes on for several minutes describing the types of errors which creep into the NFR&TR and then repeats his damning admission:

So the information on the 728,000 weapons that are in the data base has to be 100 percent accurate. Like I told you before, we tes-

tify in court and, of course, our certifications testify to that, too, when we're not physically there to testify, that we are 100 percent accurate.

How bad was the error rate in the NFR&TR? Busey again:

When I first came in a year ago, our error rate was between 49 and 50 percent, so you can imagine what the accuracy of the NFR&TR could be, if your error rate's 49 to 50 percent.

Does anyone recall the phrase, "Hey, close enough for government work"?

Consider this matter in its starkest terms: a senior BATF official lecturing other senior BATF officials at BATF national headquarters in Washington, DC, declares openly and without apparent embarrassment or hesitation that BATF officers testifying under oath in Federal—and State—courts have routinely perjured themselves about the accuracy of official government records in order to send gun-owning citizens to prison and/or deprive them of their property. Just who is the criminal in these cases?

All this was too brazen for even some BATF officials to stomach. Acting on tips from several BATF officials—there are honest men and women in government, even in BATF—I promptly filed a Freedom of Information Act⁴ demand precisely describing the Busey tape. The first reaction was predictable. After reviewing the incriminating tape, BATF officials discussed whether they could get away with destroying it. Wiser heads prevailed; obviously any outsider who knew of the tape probably would learn of its destruction—and I would have. Or perhaps all the official shredders were on the loan to the White House.

After much tooting and froing with a dismayed Department of Justice a transcript of the Busey tape was sent to me in February 1996. The Department of Justice was dismayed because the Busey tape was clearly Brady material. Every defense lawyer knows that under the Supreme Court's 1963 decision in *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83, the government is required in all criminal prosecutions to provide the defense, in advance of trial, with any evidence tending to show the defendant's innocence. Failure to do so can result in dismissal of an indictment, reversal of a conviction, or other sanctions. Willful failure to produce Brady material can constitute contempt of court, professional misconduct or even a crime.

The Busey tape was clearly exculpatory and clearly implicated every National Firearms Act prosecution and forfeiture in living memory. Worse yet, Busey was only the tip of the iceberg. When the fog had cleared Justice learned that the NFR&TR inaccuracy problem had been the subject of internal BATF discussion since at least 1979. BATF's files were replete with minutes of meetings, statistical studies, memoranda, correspondence, et cetera, admiring the problem. The only thing missing was any attempt to correct the problem, or to reveal it to anyone outside the agency.⁵

Justice has now commenced the painful chore of advising every NFA defendant in the

country of the situation. It did this with a recent mass mailing by U.S. attorneys to defense lawyers and defendants of relevant BATF documents, including the Busey transcript.

The direct consequences of this institutional perjury are just now beginning to occur. In Newport News, VA, on May 21, 1996, U.S. District Judge John A. MacKenzie, after reviewing the Busey transcript, promptly dismissed five counts of an indictment charging John D. LeaSure with possession of machineguns not registered to him.⁶ LeaSure, a Class II NFA manufacturer, had received BATF transfer approval for the five guns, but then decided to void the transfers and keep the guns, as he was legally permitted to do. He promptly faxed the voided forms 3 to NFA Branch.⁸

BATF subsequently raided LeaSure and charged him with illegally possessing the five NFA firearms which, according to the NFR&TR, were registered to someone else. The Government ignored the fact that on the date LeaSure said he voided the transfers there was a 21-minute call on his toll records from his fax number to NFA Branch's fax number—at a time when he could have had no idea he would one day be prosecuted for continuing to possess the guns. Rather, the prosecution produced NFA Branch firearms specialist Gary Schaible to testify as custodian of the NFR&TR that the Government's official records did not show any voided transfers and therefore LeaSure was in illegal possession of the guns.⁹

In essence Schaible was testifying that "We can't find an official record and therefore the defendant is guilty." What we now know is that Schaible should have testified that "We can't find half our records—even when we know they're there—and therefore we're not sure if anyone is guilty."

The Government's case was not aided when Schaible was forced to admit on cross-examination that two NFA Branch examiners were recently transferred because they had been caught shredding NFA registration documents in order to avoid having to work on them.¹⁰ Note that they were transferred. Not disciplined. Not fired. Not prosecuted. Not destroyed in place. Transferred. Just who is the criminal in these cases?

It is too early to predict how many new trials, appeals and habeas corpus actions will result from this affair. Also of importance is the number of convicted felons presently suffering legal disabilities¹¹ from flawed firearms convictions and what effect the Busey disclosures will have on their situation.

The indirect consequences of BATF's conduct will not be so readily apparent but are potentially devastating. All across the country assistant U.S. attorneys, U.S. district judges, and other Federal and local law enforcement officials are going to learn what most defense

* Footnotes at end of article.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

lawyers and gun dealers have known for years and what the aftermath of Waco and Ruby Ridge starkly illustrated: BATF officers and agents lie, dissemble, and cover up on an institutionalized basis. These are not aberrations; they are an institutional ethic, an organizational way of life. Just who is the criminal in these cases?

Lawyers and defendants in NFA cases who have not received the Busey package from the U.S. attorney should be making prompt demands—both for the package and for an explanation of why it was not timely produced. I am acting as an informal clearing house for these matters. Those lawyers or dealers with questions or problems, or with new information, involving the Busey phenomenon, or its continuing aftermath, are invited to contact me at (910) 282-6024.

[The author is a retired U.S. Department of Justice lawyer and a retired colonel in the marine Corps Reserve practicing firearms law in Greensboro, NC. He is a 1959 graduate of the University of Kentucky and a 1962 graduate of the UK College of Law, where he was note editor of the Kentucky Law Journal. He is a life member of the NRA and holds BATF in minimum high regard.]

FOOTNOTES

¹ Public Law No. 474, ch. 757, 48 Stat. 1236-1240 (Act of June 26, 1934), 26 U.S.C. §§ 1132-1132q; as amended by Act of April 10, 1936, ch. 169, 49 Stat. 1192; as codified by chap. 736, Act of August 16, 1954 (Internal Revenue Code of 1954), 68A Stat. 721-729; as amended by Public Law No. 85-859, Title II, § 203, 72 Stat. 1427, 1428 (Act of September 2, 1958); as amended by Public Law No. 86-478, §§ 1-3, 74 Stat. 149 (Act of June 1, 1960); as amended by Public Law No. 90-618, Title II, § 201, 82 Stat. 1227-1235 (Act of October 22, 1968); as amended by Public Law No. 94-455, 90 Stat. 1834 (Act of October 4, 1976); as amended by Public Law No. 99-308, § 109, 100 Stat. 449, 460 (Act of May 19, 1986); and as amended by Public Law No. 100-203, 101 Stat. 1330 (Act of December 22, 1987); Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Title 26 United States Code, ch. 53, 26 U.S.C. §§ 5801-5872 Title II of the Gun Control Act of 1968).

² See Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 27 and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 44. See also rules 803(8), 901(b)(7), 902(1), (2), (4), and 1005 of the Federal Rules of Evidence.

³ Ibid.

⁴ 5 U.S.C. § 552.

⁵ The first rule of a bureaucrat is "Never disturb a body at rest." The second, "If I don't do anything, I can't do anything wrong." The third, "When in doubt, mumble."

⁶ *United States v. LeaSure*, Criminal No. 4:95CR54 (E.D. Va. Newport News Div.).

⁷ "Special Occupational Taxpayers" under 26 U.S.C. § 5801 fall into one of three categories: Class III dealers can possess, sell, and transfer NFA firearms; class II manufacturers can, in addition, manufacture and register them; class I importers can, in addition to all the foregoing, import them. All SOTs are also required to possess Federal firearms licenses, which themselves come in six different classifications. Throw in the import and exports licenses and permits required, the various taxes imposed, and the State and local licensing and registration schemes involved, the mandatory recordkeeping required, and the shipping and transportation limitations concerned, and you have a lawyer's paradise.

⁸ BATF forms 3 are used to authorize tax-exempt dealer-to-dealer transfers are to reregister the firearm(s) involved to the transferee. There are numerous other transfer and registration forms used depending upon the nature of the transaction, the status of the parties involved, and the type of firearm and its origin.

⁹ Violations of the NFA are all 10-year, \$10,000 felonies. See 26 U.S.C. § 5871. NFA firearms, which carry some impressive sticker prices, are also forfeit if used in any violation of the NFA. See 26 U.S.C. § 5872.

¹⁰ We are left to conjecture where the NFA Branch shredder is located in relation to its fax machine.

¹¹ In addition to the loss of civil rights imposed on convicted felons by the laws of most States, felons permanently lose the right under federal law to possess firearms, as well as being potentially debarred from service in the armed forces, civil employment

in government, receiving security clearances, bidding on Federal contracts, etc.

GOOD HUNTING, TIM PIFHER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many people fail to appreciate the true therapeutic value of hunting. It sharpens the senses. It challenges the mind. It hones skills. For many people, hunting is the best activity that there can be. Tim Pifher, who has served for 2 years as the president of the Flint regional chapter of Safari Club International is such an individual.

What is particularly special about Tim Pifher's devout interest in hunting and the activities of Safari Club International is that he is thought to be physically challenged. Tim has never stricken me as limited in any way. He makes the most of each day and each activity. And he consistently obtains recognition for his accomplishments.

Tim has been named the "Special Hunter of the Year" by the Detroit chapter of the club. He has also been named "Special Hunter of the Year" by Safari Club International. This honor is given only to those individuals who have out-of-the-ordinary achievement in the sport of trophy hunting, including those individuals who have persevered against physical limitations despite overwhelming odds.

Many of us here know Safari Club International because of its efforts to conserve wildlife, protect hunters, and educate people. These national and international goals are achieved only through the dedicated local efforts of individuals like Tim Pifher who take their membership in the club seriously.

An avid sportsman, Tim has served as a speaker for many outdoor clubs and disability groups. He has testified at State Senate hearings for crossbows for the disabled. He has served as an archery and airgun instructor for various Cub Scout camps, and been involved with the Tall Pine Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He also is a past vice president of Outdoors Forever's Outdoor Disability Awareness effort.

Tim, his wife Sandy, and his son Matt, all deserve recognition for setting the example that the only limit which matters is that which we place upon ourselves. If we act unlimited, we are unlimited. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Tim Pifher on his accomplishments, and wishing him the very best for the year to come.

SUB-ACUTE CARE AT NURSING HOMES

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, with more people living longer in our country, the care of the elderly ill is a growing concern. A new type of care among nursing homes and health care providers is called sub-acute care and is for otherwise seriously ill people needing such

treatments as ventilator support, respiratory care, complex IV therapy, peritoneal dialysis, and pain management.

For relatively brief stays, these patients can be given constant and detailed attention in a nursing home to curtail overcrowding at hospitals.

The Split Rock Nursing Home and the Eastchester Park Nursing Home, both in the Bronx, are initiating this type of care, a first in the New York City area. Both facilities, which have 440 beds and are owned by the Zelmanowicz family, have been operating for 25 years and 30 years respectively.

They can provide this care for less than the cost in hospitals, saving money and other resources for the more gravely ill. It also makes life and treatment easier for these patients and their families to have this type of treatment in the usually friendlier confines of a nursing home.

The Split Rock and the Eastchester Nursing Homes are accredited and progressive long-term care facilities serving the diverse communities of the northeastern Bronx.

I want to use this opportunity to congratulate Naomi Zelmanowicz, M.D., Abe Zelmanowicz, and Rebecca Rich for the years they have spent making life more worth living for the elderly in the Bronx.

SALUTING RECENT GRADUATES OF GENERAL EDUCATION DEGREE PROGRAM

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the men and women in Ohio's 11th Congressional District who have recently completed their General Education Degrees [GED]. This honor confers on them the equivalence of a high school diploma, which is an important stepping stone to future success. This degree will enjoin them with the hundreds of thousands of GED recipients who have completed this program over its 54-year existence.

These students of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district have a wide range of ages and future plans. Many of them are pursuing further education at the college or vocational school level. Several may now pursue opportunities in the working world with their new degrees. Others will continue their lives with the satisfaction of fulfilling the standards of our rigorous school system.

These GED's represent the culmination of many hours of hard work, commitment, and motivation. I am also proud to note the continued support of the adult basic literary education teachers, staff, and volunteers throughout the community who gave their time and talents to prepare students for the demanding GED course.

Mr. Speaker, the GED program continues to bring pride and self-esteem to young adults and older students. These students have invested valuable time to obtain a crucial level of education that can help open doors to opportunity. I extend my warmest wishes to these determined men and women, and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them all the best in their future endeavors. I ask that

their names now be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Jason Franklin, 1992 Green Road, Cleveland, OH.

Ashirah Goldman, (helped tutor other students, also), 1643 Rydalmount Road, Cleveland, OH.

Marcia Green, 16321 Greyton Road, Cleveland, OH.

Aaron Gundersen, 1284 Argonne Road, Cleveland, OH.

Kaiser Hamelin, Jr., 20221 Blackfoot Drive, Euclid, OH.

Martha Jane Johnson, 19590 Euclid Avenue, Euclid, OH.

Susan Johnson, 1556 Ansel Road, Cleveland, OH.

Aron G. Kurlander, 3496 Bendemeer Road, Cleveland, OH.

Sarah Levensen, 14254 Cedar Road, Cleveland, OH.

Anna Lippman, 1411 Dill Road, Cleveland, OH.

Ellen Morrison, 931 Helmsdale Road, Cleveland, OH.

Angelo Nyiri, 1195 Monarch, Cleveland, OH.

Kim Ottino, 1549 Temple, Cleveland, OH.

Joseph Paszko, 4495 Ammon Road, Cleveland, OH.

Sarah Radcliffe, 2940 Washington Blvd., Cleveland, OH.

Arlana Robinson, 14009 Northfield Avenue, Cleveland, OH.

Solomon Rogers, Jr., 2452 Warrensville Center Road, Cleveland, OH.

Omar Santos, 13709 Blenheim, Cleveland, OH.

April Sellers, 11911 Browning Avenue, Cleveland, OH.

Carl Sims, 1687 Belmar Road, Cleveland, OH.

Stacy Spetrino, 995 Evangeline, Cleveland, OH.

Nellie Thomas, 1622 Coventry Road, Cleveland, OH.

Devorah Weisz, 3501 Bendemeer Road, Cleveland, OH.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3952

HON. ROBERT S. WALKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, today we are introducing a bill to broaden the interpretation of language contained in the Florence Agreement, a multilateral international agreement regarding the importation of educational, scientific, and cultural materials. Signed by the United States, it allows for the duty-free importation of scientific apparatus into the United States, if used by U.S. approved institutions for educational, scientific, and cultural purposes.

The problem which has raised this issue involves two large optical telescopes now under construction in Hawaii and Chile. The Gemini International Telescope Project, managed by the Association of Universities in Astronomy [AURA], involves the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil. The U.S. Customs Service has narrowly defined the words "scientific instruments or apparatus" not to include components of these instruments or apparatus.

The telescopes contain several components, one of which is an eight meter mirror which was manufactured in the United States. The mirrors were shipped to France for polishing before being returned to Hawaii and Chile for

final assembly. The U.S. Customs Service initially contended that the mirror was a component and that components are not eligible for duty-free entry. Chile, however, is not charging duties on the mirror destined for there. Following requests from Members of Congress and the administration, the U.S. Customs Service finally agreed to allow the duty-free import of the mirror, because it ruled that the mirror involved the essence of the telescopes. However, there are several other major components of the telescope that should receive duty free status. Separate legislation (H.R. 3951) has also been introduced to allow favorable treatment of these components.

While demonstrated by the difficulties encountered with the Gemini International Telescope Project, this bill addresses the broader problem of the interpretation of the words "instruments or apparatus" by the U.S. Customs Service. This bill states that separable components shall be included under the definition of "instruments or apparatus" and shall thus be eligible for duty-free import into the United States under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. This bill will ensure that the United States fulfills the intent of the Florence Agreement.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE MAYO MASHBURN

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Judge Mayo Mashburn, a great Tennessee judge, recently passed away.

Judge Mashburn presided as a Criminal Court judge in McMinn County and the rest of the 10 Judicial District over the past decade. While Judge Mashburn was described as a "no nonsense" judge who was to the point, he was also a man who went out of his way to help people.

Judge Mashburn was one of the most respected citizens in east Tennessee and was loved by many people. A close friend, Dr. Bill Trotter was quoted in the Daily Post-Athenian saying, "Our community will miss him both as a judge and a man who served the community in many ways."

I request that a copy of the article which appeared in the Daily Post-Athenian be placed in the RECORD at this point. I would like to call it to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

IN HONOR OF AMERICORPS GRADUATES FROM THE UNION CITY DAY CARE PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an industrious group of individuals, the 1995-96 participants in the AmeriCorps Program of the Union City Day Care Program, Inc. and the Urban League of Hudson County who have chosen the selfless path of service to the community. A com-

mencement ceremony for these graduates will be held on August 5 at the Urban Starting Points in Jersey City, NJ.

This joyous occasion marks the culmination of a extensive training program which prepares these men and women for careers attending to the needs of the children in their communities. When our honorees first entered the AmeriCorps Program, their expectations of success were modest. However, the educational experiences gained over the past year have tremendously increased their personal determination to handle any obstacle they may face.

The 1995-96 graduating AmeriCorps class consist of 22 dedicated individuals, including: Sabrina Arnold, Alberto Canal, Judith Concepcion, Yesenia Flores, Doreen Griffin, Waynette Harris, Luis Hernandez, Maria Hernandez, Tawanda Holmes, LaToya Leak, April Lewis, Brandi McCrea, Darcel McRae, Frank Meloi, Nicole Myrick, Lydia Nieves, Aida Paredes, Abdullah Payton, Dellar Reid, Wilma Sanchez, Yolanda Seruya, and Mylove Tetterton. The unique contributions these people will make in their neighborhoods will have an impact for generations to come.

Something as complex an undertaking as the AmeriCorps Program of the Urban League of Hudson County is never accomplished through the efforts of one person. This particular program has been successful due to the efforts of Elnora Watson, president and chief executive officer and her staff headed by director of the program Diane Fuller, Luis Mendez, Jeffrey, Lischin, Eloisa Lacson, and Richard Blas. They are exceptional community leaders.

The AmeriCorps graduates of the Union City Day Care Program exemplify the true meaning of community service. For their outstanding work and leadership, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these wonderful individuals. I am proud to have this valuable endeavor operating within my district.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FCC MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1996

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in February of this year, we passed, and the President signed, the most sweeping change to our Nation's telecommunications laws in over 62 years—the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law 104-104.

Earlier this Congress, I promised that after we finished rewriting our telecommunications laws the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance would then focus its efforts on downsizing and reducing unnecessary underbrush at the Federal Communications Commission. Today, I introduce the FCC Modernization Act of 1996 for just that purpose.

Mr. Speaker, the FCC Modernization Act of 1996 is not an effort to revolutionize the telecommunications industry. We already did that, and the industry and the Commission are still feeling the effects of our changes. In fact, yesterday the Commission adopted its report and order to implement the centerpiece of the 1996 act—bringing competition to the local telephone market. The Commission has been

working long and hard on this proposal, and I am interested in seeing their results.

The FCC Modernization Act of 1996, instead, is about further reducing the regulatory burdens on a competitive industry and streamlining the operations of the Commission. More important, this bill is about asking the Commission to plan for the future—the future of the Commission in a competitive world. Specifically, section 2 of the bill requires the Commission to prepare and submit a detailed report to Congress on exactly what the Commission should look like once the 1996 act is implemented.

Mr. Speaker, a fully competitive marketplace will ultimately decrease the role of a Federal regulator. In my opinion, competition, if we have done our jobs right, should develop very, very quickly. Section 2 forces the Commission to prepare for the moment when markets are ruled by competition rather than by regulation; it asks the important questions before that moment is upon us.

This bill also reduces what I call the regulatory underbrush, those provisions of telecommunications law that no longer are applicable in an information age. For example, this bill would eliminate the requirement that telephone companies file every contract, agreement, or arrangement with another telephone company with the Commission, section 4. Instead, my bill retains the Commission's authority to file such information when it deems necessary. Thus, the bill eliminates an unnecessary provision of law without harming the Commission's ability to protect the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

The FCC Modernization Act of 1996 is another step forward in this Congress' effort to prepare for a competitive telecommunications market. I believe that providing further regulatory relief to our Nation's fast growing, most important sector will help create more high-technology, high-paying jobs for American workers. Further, it will stir industry investment and innovation that will only benefit consumers in the long run.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to have my good friend, Mr. DINGELL, join me as an original cosponsor of the legislation. It is my hope that we can move this bill quickly through the legislative process and make it law. I urge all Members to support this bill.

H.R. 3816, 1997 ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, when the House debated the 1997 energy and water appropriations bill, I voted against an amendment to kill funding for the Animas La Plata project, in Colorado and New Mexico. I want the RECORD to reflect my reasons for that vote.

Current law and legal agreements link the Animas La Plata project to settlement of long-standing Ute Indian water rights claims. These claims must be honored. The Federal Government must fulfill this obligation to native Americans. Voting now simply to kill the project would signal a default on that obligation, and I do not see that as a constructive or responsible step to take.

I am aware of the serious environmental and other problems of the project. That's why both last year and again this year, I made sure the legislative history of the appropriations bills clearly showed that all environmental laws will continue to apply to the project. There's been no decision on the adequacy of the latest supplemental environmental impact statement about the project, and I believe that there almost certainly will be a court challenge of that decision, whichever way it goes. Even with continued funding for the project, the environmental and other questions about it have to be and will be addressed and resolved—one way or another—before any significant construction can start.

Nonetheless, I think all parties should recognize that the House vote against funding Animas La Plata in 1997 clearly signals that it's increasingly unlikely that the project as now designed can be built or can assure resolution of the Indian water rights claims. The time has arrived for serious exploration of other ways to achieve that objective and to fulfill that commitment, ways that will be less problematic in terms of both environmental and money costs.

JIM DUNN: TWENTY YEARS AND COUNTING

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, there is no substitute for experience when we want to get a job done, and get it done right. The Michigan Public Transit Association has for the past 20 years been ably represented by attorney James Dunn who has a stellar record of achievement in the area of transportation.

Jim Dunn started in public interest matters the way many accomplished people have: as a staff person. In his case, he served the Michigan Senate Transportation Committee for several years in the 1970's. His accomplishment allowed him to merit appointment by Governor Milliken in 1978 to the Michigan Transportation Needs Study Committee, and later by the Speaker of the House and the majority leader to the legislative ad hoc task force on transportation financing. His learned capabilities allow him to serve as an adjunct professor for Transportation Law at Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing.

Along with these activities, since 1976 Jim Dunn has been with the Michigan Public Transportation Association, where he has participated in the development of public transit administrative legislation and funding proposals. As an individual who has worked with him as a member of the Michigan State House, the Michigan State Senate, and now as a Member of Congress particularly in my capacity as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I can tell you that Jim Dunn has always conducted himself in a thoroughly professional manner. He has always provided information that could be relied upon in critical situations.

It is no surprise to anyone that his arguments are always on target, with his having been trained at the U.S. Army Artillery and Missile Officer Candidate School. That discipline helps him recognize the objective, com-

pute the proper solution, and implement the response most effectively.

I have had the good fortune to work with many skilled individuals during my time in public office. I rank James Dunn among the best. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing him the very best on his anniversary of representation, and wishing him every success in the years to come.

HONORING NELLIE A. THORNTON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Nellie A. Thornton was a wonderful person who labored long and hard for her community and the people in it. Her influence and good works spread beyond the borders of Mount Vernon, where she lived and taught, to being named as one of the 100 most influential black leaders in the Nation.

She was the first black woman principal to be hired in Mount Vernon, NY, and she served as a principal there for 22 years. She was the organizer and first president of the Greater Hudson Valley Chapter of Links, Inc., where she was instrumental in organizing a program to bring children to visit parents in the Bedford Hills Correctional Center.

As a member of the Grace Baptist Church, she was selected by the church to the Wall of Honor for her faithfulness and dedication. She was also invited to the signing of the 1991 Civil Rights bill by then President Bush and by President Clinton to his Inauguration. The city of Mount Vernon declared March 29, 1989, as Nellie Thornton Day.

She is especially missed by her husband, Daniel Thornton, and their children, Danielle and Gabrielle, and by all of us who know of the great work she has done. To further honor her memory, Mount Vernon is renaming a school in her honor and on May 29, 1996, will officially open the Nellie Arzelia Thornton Elementary School. What she has done is an inspiration to all who want to further the goal of making America a truly equal home for all its peoples. Her name and her spirit lives on, and for this we should all be thankful.

A SPECIAL SALUTE TO JUDGE CARL J. CHARACTER

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Honorable Carl J. Character, judge of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. Judge Character will be retiring from the Court in January, 1997. As he prepares to depart his post, plans are underway for special ceremonies and other events to recognize Judge Character's commitment to public service and this Nation. I am proud to participate in the tribute to Judge Character. I want to share with my colleagues and the Nation some information regarding this distinguished member of the judiciary.

Carl J. Character was appointed to the Cuyahoga Court of Common Pleas in 1987 by

former Ohio Governor Richard Celeste. In 1990 he was elected to the bench and has served with distinction. His elevation to a judgeship in the Common Pleas Court represented the highlight of a 30-year career in the legal profession.

Judge Character attended Cleveland public schools and graduated from Glenville High School. He completed studies at Ohio State University and received his juris doctorate from the University of Michigan. He went on to earn a masters of law from Cleveland Marshall College of Law of Cleveland State University.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Character was a trial attorney. He represented a variety of clients, from Fortune 500 companies to welfare recipients and professional athletes. As a lawyer, Carl Character epitomized excellence in the courtroom. He and I were partners for a number of years in the law firm founded by my brother Carl Stokes, Carl Character, and myself. The law firm was known as Stokes, Character, Terry, Perry Whitehead, young and Davidson. It was during those years that I came to know Carl Character as an outstanding trial lawyer who was totally dedicated to his clients and the cause which he espoused. More than that, however, he was active in our community where he volunteered many hours of service. He was a leader and advocate in the civil rights movement in Cleveland. Whenever his community needed him, Carl Character was there. As a judge he has been compassionate and strong. He is highly respected by the bench and bar and leaves a legacy of excellence as a judge. Carl has been a role model for young lawyers and he has really enjoyed being a judge.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Character is a veteran of the United States Army, having served in the Korean war. He is a past president of the National Bar Association and a member of the American Bar Association. Other memberships include the World Association of Lawyers, American Trial Lawyers Association, National Conference of Black Lawyers, and the Cuyahoga County Bar Association, just to name a few.

In addition to his judicial duties, Judge Character is an integral part of the Cleveland community. He is active in the Cleveland NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Ohio Commission on Racial Fairness, the American Legion, and the University Hospital Board of Trustees. I am also proud to note his membership in the Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his career, Judge Character has been recognized for his dedication and commitment to public service. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. In addition, he received the organization's Presidential Award and C. Francis Straford Award. Judge Character has been named "Father of the Year" by the Teen Father Program. Further, he received special recognition from the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and has been honored by Beta Gamma Sigma and Beta Alpha Psi Fraternities.

Judge Character and his lovely wife, DeeAnn reside in Shaker Heights, OH. They are the proud parents of Darla and Dea Character. I know that members of Judge Character's family share our pride in his many accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Judge Carl J. Character. He is a dedicated public servant who has fought to ensure justice and

fairness in the legal system. I join his colleagues and others in congratulating him and wishing him well in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3951

HON. ROBERT S. WALKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, today we are introducing a bill to clarify the interpretation of language contained in the Florence Agreement, a multilateral international agreement regarding the importation of educational, scientific, and cultural materials. It allows the duty-free importation of scientific apparatus into the United States, if used by U.S. approved institutions for educational, scientific, and cultural purposes.

This legislation specifically broadens the interpretation of the words "scientific instruments or apparatus" by the U.S. Customs Service as it pertains to the Gemini International Telescope Project. The U.S. Customs Service has narrowly defined these terms not to include "components" of these instruments or apparatus.

The present problem involved two large optical telescopes now under construction in Hawaii and Chile. The Gemini International Telescope Project, managed by the Association of Universities in Astronomy [AURA], involves the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil. The telescopes contain several major components, one of which is an 8-meter mirror which was manufactured in the United States. The mirrors were shipped to France for polishing before being returned to Hawaii and Chile for final assembly. The U.S. Customs Service initially contended that the mirror was a component and that components are not eligible for duty-free entry. Chile, however, is not charging duties on the mirror destined for there.

Following requests from Members of Congress and the administration, the U.S. Customs Service finally agreed to allow the duty-free import of the mirror, because it ruled that the mirror involved the essence of the telescopes. However, there are several other major components of the telescope that should also receive duty-free status.

This bill addresses the specific problem being faced by the Gemini International Telescope Project by allowing the duty-free importation of major components of the telescope now under construction in Hawaii. The components are specifically listed in the legislation. This bill also addresses the issue of fairness under the United States obligations under the Florence Agreement. By allowing the duty-free importation of the components of the Gemini telescope, we are fulfilling an agreement we made with the international scientific community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID G. CRAIG

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Dr. David G. Craig, a University of

Tennessee human ecology professor, for being named as the 1996 Higher Education Teacher of the Year. This indeed is a great honor and one which Dr. Craig should be very proud to receive.

The Tennessee Education Association selected Dr. Craig based on several criteria. He has demonstrated excellence in the classroom, professional merit, and participation in professional, community, and political activities at the University of Tennessee.

I request that a copy of the article "Professor Distinguished as Teacher of Year" which appeared in the University of Tennessee Daily Beacon be placed in the RECORD at this point. I would like to call it to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE PATENT AND ROYALTY ENFORCEMENT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, the current legal situation in the international trade arena, places small companies and American businesses in a position where they have little recourse against unfair trade acts, and where they are vulnerable to foreign predatory practices. The bill that I am introducing today would mandate that there be legislative change to enable small companies, who have endured unfair methods of competition by their foreign trading partners, to seek redress in a court of competent jurisdiction in the United States.

This legislation will help small business owners like Mr. Salvatore Monte. Mr. Monte is the president of Kenrich Petrochemical Inc., and an inventor in the proud New Jersey tradition of Thomas Edison. Mr. Monte holds numerous patents for organo-metallic compounds, which are used in everything from rocket fuels, to ammunition, to tires, to cars, to printed circuit boards, to photocopiers. In 1976, Mr. Monte signed a contract with Ajinomoto Co. [AJICO] of Japan to import, and later, gave license to manufacture, his chemical products. Since that time, Mr. Monte has experienced extensive violation of his intellectual property rights, and questionable business practices—robbing him of millions of dollars. Mr. Monte has been faced with such anti-competitive business practices as:

Improper recordkeeping; so narrow an interpretation of Japanese patents as to be considered infringement—to the point that the Japanese manufacturer even copied his technical literature; patent flooding; and unauthorized sublicensing for the manufacture of his chemicals.

I believe Mr. Monte is not alone in his dilemma. The U.S. Trade Representative received numerous complaints about Japanese narrow patent interpretation and patent flooding practices. As a result, Japan remains on the special 301 priority watch list. Absent legislative change which gives U.S. courts jurisdiction over the unfair acts and unfair methods of competition in which foreign companies are engaging under the protection of their government, there is little recourse under law for small business owners, like Mr. Monte. The WTO has no jurisdiction over private actions.

One cannot proceed before the WTO except against a government action. For Mr. Monte, he is essentially condemned to bring an action before a Japanese tribunal. This is absurd. Japanese courts have been accused by both the European Union and the United States for their lack of enforcement of intellectual property laws, and for supporting the Japanese unfair patent system. Government enforcement agencies are no better. The Japanese Federal Trade Commission is notorious for tolerating anticompetitive and unfair trade practices.

Mr. Monte's situation raises fundamental questions about the role of our Federal Government in protecting the constitutional rights of our citizens in the context of international trade. Upholding the standard of free markets and free trade is not a license to do nothing. The price of freedom is not without cost for either personal liberties or economic freedom. It is a constitutional right under the first amendment that our citizens may petition the Government for redress of grievances. Also, it is a constitutional prerogative under article 1, section 8, clause 8 "to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors, the exclusive right of their respective writings and discoveries."

Mr. Monte's case shows how defenseless American small business is in international trade and how little the Federal Government does to protect fair trade. As we enter the globalized marketplace of the 21st century, the U.S. Government must take action to ensure that we have policies and laws that support and enhance the position of our businesses. Unfair trade affects everyone—businesses, consumers, and workers. Predatory practices are actionable under U.S. law and we must continue to require that the rights of U.S. citizens are freely and fairly insured. The bill I am introducing today will do just that. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important piece of legislation. Free trade is irrelevant if the trade is not fair.

THANK YOU, NANCY SIMPSON, FOR
YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last December 11 my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff—and because of the genuine friendship I feel for them. Each one of them has served the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District in an extraordinary way.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff—Nancy Simpson, my director of casework—for everything she's done for me and my constituents in the 16 years that she has worked in my office.

Since January 1981, Nancy has handled more than 10,000 cases—helping constituents who were experiencing problems with Federal agencies. Whether the problem was a lost Social Security check, denial of a veteran's disability benefits claim, an immigration problem

that defied easy resolution, or a request for aid as a result of a flood, hurricane, or other disaster, Nancy has been there day in and day out, helping the men and women of my district when Federal red tape seemed to be overwhelming.

Over the years, Nancy has managed to cut through that redtape on behalf of veterans, senior citizens, Americans seeking to bring family members to the United States, small business owners and many other of my constituents. She has earned their undying gratitude—and mine.

When constituents haven't come to Nancy for help, Nancy has gone to them. She has participated in outreach meetings, visiting communities throughout my district in order to be available to constituents who might not be able to travel to one of my local offices. She has also participated in many of my more than 500 town meetings, visiting communities throughout the district in order to help local residents experiencing problems with the Federal Government.

Her outstanding record of success and compassion has earned Nancy the respect of other caseworkers in other congressional offices. And her dedication and, yes, tenacity, have earned her the respect of officials in a variety of Federal agencies in Texas and Washington, DC.

In addition to helping individual men and women, Nancy has established casework procedures for my office—procedures that have been adopted by other congressional offices. Her training and supervisory skills have been recognized at several Federal agency training seminars.

In addition to her casework, Nancy has handled a variety of special projects in my district; helped conduct legislative research; and helped constituents, small businesses and other organizations in Texas obtain information related to doing business with the Federal Government and to obtaining Federal grants.

Nancy Simpson is one of those hardworking men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know she has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank her for the dedication, loyalty, and professionalism she has exhibited throughout the years it has been my privilege to know and work with her.

Nancy has yet to make a definite decision about what she wants to do in the years ahead. But I am confident that the skills and the personal qualities she has demonstrated in my office will lead to continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying thank you to Nancy Simpson for her years of loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District, and to this great institution. And I know you join with me in wishing Nancy, and her husband, Richard, all the best in the years ahead.

BILL TO EXTEND WILDERNESS
PROTECTION FOR SPANISH
PEAKS AREA, CO

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to continue the protection of

wilderness values in the Spanish Peaks area in Colorado. The bill is cosponsored by my colleagues from Colorado, Mr. MCINNIS and Mrs. SCHROEDER.

The mountains now usually known as the Spanish Peaks are two volcanic peaks in Las Animas and Huerfano Counties whose native American name is Wayatoya. The eastern peak rises to 12,683 feet above sea level, while the summit of the western peak reaches 13,626 feet. The two served as landmarks not only for native Americans but also for some of Colorado's other early settlers and for travelers along the trail between Bent's Old Fort on the Arkansas River and Taos, NM. With this history, it's not surprising that the Spanish Peaks portion of the San Isabel National Forest was included in 1977 on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks.

The Spanish Peaks area has outstanding scenic, geologic, and wilderness values, including a spectacular system of over 250 free-standing dikes and ramps of volcanic materials radiating from the peaks. The State of Colorado has designated the Spanish Peaks as a Natural Area, and they are a popular destination for hikers seeking an opportunity to enjoy an unmatched vista of southeastern Colorado's mountains and plains.

The Spanish Peaks area was considered for possible wilderness designation in the 1970's, but the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1980 provided instead for its continued management as a wilderness study area. A decade later, the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 included provisions for long-term management of all the other wilderness study areas in our State's national forests, but questions about the land-ownership pattern in the Spanish Peaks area led to a decision to require continued management of that area as a wilderness study area for 3 years—until August 13, 1996. The 1993 Act also required the Forest Service to report to Congress concerning the extent of non-Federal holdings in the area and the likelihood of acquisition of those holdings by the United States with the owners' consent.

The required report was submitted last year. It indicated that within the approximately 20,825 acres being managed as a wilderness study area, there were about 825 acres where the United States owned neither the surface nor the mineral rights, and about 440 acres more where the United States owned the surface but not the minerals.

To date, through voluntary sales, the United States has acquired some of the non-Federal holdings in the Spanish Peaks area, and there are indications that others will or can be acquired in the same way.

I think there is every reason to believe that it will soon be possible to designate lands within the Spanish Peaks area as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Clearly, however, it will not be possible to achieve enactment of such legislation by the middle of next month.

Therefore, the bill we are introducing today simply provides that the Forest Service will continue to manage the Spanish Peaks as a wilderness study area until Congress determines otherwise. This will remove an artificial, arbitrary deadline and will ensure that decisions about the future management of this very special area will be made deliberately, through legislation, rather than by default.

I greatly appreciate the assistance and support of Representatives MCINNIS and SCHROEDER in connection with this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO STATE TROOPER
BARRY WASHINGTON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the work that Trooper Barry Washington has done in curtailing drug trafficking in the State of Texas.

Trooper Washington is doing his part in helping Americans win the war on drugs. Each year, he hauls in more than 1,000 pounds of marijuana and 20,000 grams of cocaine according to the Texas Department of Public Safety. In an average week, Trooper Washington sends two drug-trafficking suspects through the local court system. As a result the system has become so taxed with drug arrests that the legislature granted a county court wider jurisdiction so that they could help handle the backlog. And drug smugglers, many of whom depend on the stretch of U.S. 59 that Trooper Washington patrols, have noticed. Authorities say the smugglers are finding other routes to get drugs from Houston to other parts of the Nation.

Some have suggested that Trooper Washington finds drugs only because he is allergic to them; however, he would need more than an allergic reaction to start a search. He begins searches because he studies the fourth amendment and tries to read as many law cases that deal with searches and seizures as he can. He has taught classes on the subject to several city and county police departments. Additionally, he uses modern technology—his cruiser is equipped with a video recorder, and he wears a microphone on his uniform. During some of his travels up and down highway 59, he has found drugs inside tires, dashboards, headlights, doors, and just about every other part of a vehicle where something can be hidden.

I want to thank State Highway Patrol Trooper Barry Washington for his incredible record of service to our State and our community. I salute him for his commitment to keeping our streets safe from drugs and drug dealers. I congratulate him for a job well done and I hope he continues to match or beat his own records of bringing drug trafficking to an end.

TRIBUTE TO TEMPLE ADAS
ISRAEL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Temple Adas Israel in Sag Harbor, NY, a cornerstone of the Jewish religious and cultural life on Long Island's East End that is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

From its early days as the Temple Mishkan Israel, Adas Israel has been the focal point of the Jewish experience on Eastern Long Island. Not only has it served the spiritual and cultural needs of its congregants, but the temple has fortified the cultural diversity of our entire East End community.

The history of Temple Adas Israel in many ways illustrates the Jewish immigrant experi-

ence in the United States at the turn of the century. Like the vast majority of their compatriots, Sag Harbor's early immigrants established a toe-hold in the community, formed mutual-aid benefit societies, and founded cemeteries. As their numbers grew, they built a synagogue. They also struggled to redefine Jewish family life in a new world.

The first Jewish immigrants moved to Sag Harbor from New York City in the early 1880's when the Fahy watch factory moved to the former whaling port, bringing hundreds of good factory jobs. Jewish immigrants from Russia, Hungary, Poland, and Germany, drawn to America by this country's promise of religious and political freedom, flocked to Sag Harbor, attracted by the Fahy watch factory's promise of economic opportunity.

In 1896, when Nissan Myerson paid \$350 for the land along Elizabeth Street where the temple was to be built, the 50 families of Sag Harbor's Jewish community established what would become Long Island's oldest Jewish house of worship in continuous use. The synagogue was built 2 years later and formally dedicated during the celebration of Rosh Hoshanah in 1898. Legend has it that Temple Mishkan Israel received its first Torah from Teddy Roosevelt when the Long Island native returned to America with the 1,200 Rough Riders he led up San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War. Quarantined at Montauk, Jewish brigade members held services with a Torah they procured, the Torah that Roosevelt donated to the temple when the brigade departed.

A bedrock of Eastern Long Island's Jewish community, the temple attracted Jews from Montauk, East Hampton, Riverhead, and Westhampton. When Sag Harbor suffered economic decline after the watch factory was consumed by fire in 1925, many families moved from the village, and the temple saw a similar drop in its congregation.

In 1948, the year of modern Israel's birth, when the post-war boom began to regenerate Sag Harbor, descendants of Temple Mishkan Israel's founders revived the synagogue. Renamed Temple Adas Israel, the synagogue was soon again a vibrant focal point of the community. Leaving its Orthodox roots, for conservative then reform practices, the temple earned a reputation as a center of liberal Judaism, attracting hundreds of summer Hampton residents to high holy day services.

Throughout its 100 years, the temple has preserved its community's Jewish heritage, providing for its spiritual sustenance, and that commitment to cultural strength persists. Jewish community life on the East End has changed much since the founding of Temple Adas Israel 100 years ago. What remains constant is the temple community's commitment to maintain their religious and cultural heritage, while enriching the entire East End of Long Island. Congratulations to the Temple Adas Israel. Mazel Tov.

TRIBUTE TO KWABENA ADUTUWUN
ADDEI, M.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Kwabena Addei was born to Akua and the late Kwado

Addei, an Ashanti chief, in Oyoko, near Kumasi, Ghana, in West Africa. He received his early education from the Achimota British Preparatory School in Accra, Ghana, graduated from Cambridge University in England, and received his medical degree from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Following an internship at Metropolitan Hospital, Dr. Addei completed his residency in surgery at Nassau Hospital—now Winthrop University Hospital—in Mineola, NY. As an attending surgeon, he entered private practice, and assisted in establishing Winthrop Hospital's academic affiliation with the surgery department at State University of New York at Stony Brook Medical Center. In addition to private practice, Dr. Addei is the director of surgical education at Winthrop University Hospital and an associate professor of surgery at the State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Medicine.

He is a diplomat of the American Board of Surgery and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and holds memberships in the American Medical Association, the National Medical Association, the Nassau Surgical Society, Alpha Omega Alpha—the medical honor society, One Hundred Black Men of Nassau/Suffolk, Inc., the National Society of Poets, and is a founding member of the American Association of the Clinical Anatomists. He has also served as the newsletter editor and co-chairman of the Scientific and Continuing Education Committee—Brooklyn, Long Island Chapter, American Medical Association; executive committee member of the board of directors, American Cancer Society, Long Island Division, Inc.; medical consultant, Sickie Cell Clinic of Nassau Hospital; and director of the Trauma Unit, Winthrop University Hospital. Dr. Addei has also published his research in many professional journals such as the Journal of Surgical Research and American Journal of Surgery.

Dr. Addei's community spirit has been honored by various groups: The Westbury Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.; the National Association for the Study of Black History and Life; the Long Island Black History Association; and the Mothers Group of Westbury. In addition, Dr. Addei has been selected, for 10 consecutive years, to receive the Award for Outstanding Teaching. Community School District 19 in East New York, Brooklyn, presented Dr. Addei with an award of appreciation for his dedication and concern for the welfare of the students in the district's seven middle schools. I am pleased to introduce him to my House colleagues.

ROBERT YOUNG, A MAN OF GREAT
DISTINCTION

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, those of us in public office know the value of representing the interests of our constituents. Some who have been in public service continue to distinguish themselves by using their skills to continue to work for people who need someone who can take the time to study the details of

proposals affecting their daily lives, and translate those concerns into effective solutions. Robert Young is one of these valuable individuals who has melded his public representation skills with effective leadership of the Great Lakes Sugar Beet Growers Association.

Robert Young has announced his retirement as executive vice president of the association, a position which he has held since 1983. Prior to that time, Bob served in the Michigan State Senate from 1974 to 1982, and the Michigan State House from 1970 to 1974. Rarely has there been an individual with whom I have worked that has been the wonderful combination of informed, helpful, and pleasant, as has been Bob Young.

Bob has worked most effectively for the thousands of sugar beet growers across our districts who know that our Federal sugar program is vital to their future. He has taken his concerns for Michigan's growers before the American Sugar Beet Growers Association. And he has certainly met with many of our colleagues as he and a number of our growers spent time earlier this year and last helping us understand the importance of the Federal sugar program.

His talents have been put to excellent use on behalf of his community, his church, and those matters in which he has a strong personal belief, including business development, agriculture, and fiscal responsibility.

His wife, Shirley, his children Mary Jo, Barbara, Gary, and their spouses Howard Ring, Gary Konuszewski, and Amy, and his grandchildren Ashley and Courtney Ring, Garret, Spencer, Mackenzie, and Hunter Konuszewski, and the forthcoming new Young, can all be proud to be members of a family where devotion to principle and support of what is needed are the hallmarks.

As Bob Young is honored on August 14 for his years of service to the Great Lakes Sugar Beet Growers Association, I urge you and all of our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join us in wishing the best to Bob Young, a man who has set an example worthy of following.

HONORING HERBERT WARSHAVSKY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Herbert Warshavsky has been a leading member of the real estate profession in New York City and, for the past 20 years, has been executive director of the Associated Builders and Owners of Greater New York. His dynamism and ability has caused the organization to grow and prosper. Through his hard work and industry, the ABO trade show has become the largest business event for the buildings industry in the New York metropolitan area.

Mr. Warshavsky has also performed important civic duties in his hometown of Lawrence, NY, where he has served as an official with the United Fund and as president of the Lawrence Civic Association, as deputy mayor and, currently, as chairman of the Village Planning Board. In short, he has worked hard in his profession and in his civic life to bring prosperity to both. I wish all the best to Herb, his wife Rosita, and their children, Bruce, Alan, and Sharon.

SALUTING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF HOWARD LANDAU

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the dedication and hard work of an active and caring citizen of Ohio's Eleventh Congressional District, Mr. Howard Landau. Mr. Landau is currently completing his third and final year as board chairman of the northern Ohio region of the Anti-Defamation League, where he has done an outstanding job. Mr. Landau's tenure as the region's ADL board chairman has been signified by the elevated level of activity within the agency and in ADL's role in the Greater Cleveland community. He has fostered committees to address intergroup relations, public relations, and civil rights. Howard has also shown the importance of leadership development by serving on ADL's Leadership Development Committee. He has executed this leadership further by magnifying the prominence of the northeast Ohio ADL at the national level.

Previous to assuming the regional chairmanship, Howard served as the first Chair of the agency's local "A World of Difference" diversity education program. This program has now trained more than 2,000 educators and community representatives, and thousands more students. This was the product of Mr. Landau's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Landau, who has spent more than a quarter of a century as a public relations specialist for interesting and influential clients, has given greatly of his time to serve our community. Other organizations he has served include the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland, the boards of the Cleveland Restoration Society and Leadership Cleveland, and he is a former president of the Cleveland City Club. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Howard Landau's devotion to public service and efforts to further understanding, diversity, and civil rights.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 1992

HON. ROBERT S. WALKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation requested by the administration that will amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 [EPACT] by extending the Electric and Magnetic Fields Research and Public Information Dissemination [RAPID] Program by 1 year.

The RAPID Program was established under section 2118 of EPACT to expand and accelerate the research needed to address public concerns that electric and magnetic fields [EMF] might be a human health hazard. The program, authorized for a total of \$65 million, was to run for 5 years and is scheduled to expire on December 31, 1997.

EPACT required the establishment of two advisory committees and 50 percent cost-sharing from non-Federal sources. The program schedule slipped by 1 year due to delays in establishing the advisory committees and in receiving appropriated funds. The bill

would extend the RAPID Program until December 31, 1998, and all interim deadlines by 1 year, in order to complete the work mandated by EPACT. No additional funds beyond the \$65 million authorized in EPACT are required to complete the program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge extension of the RAPID Program by 1 year; otherwise we will have wasted 4 years of Federal and utility funding and efforts to address the important public policy issue of the health effects of EMF.

GENETIC INFORMATION HEALTH INSURANCE NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 1996

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the rapid advancement of gene discovery and molecular medicine are leading scientists and doctors to a future where information about genetic diseases will be readily available and easily assessable. Unfortunately, as knowledge in this area grows so does the potential for discrimination in health coverage for a number of Americans.

That is why I am introducing a bill today which will protect Americans from discrimination by health insurers based on their genetic makeup.

My bill was crafted to prevent health insurers from denying, limiting, refusing to renew, or canceling insurance coverage on the basis of genetic information or because the individual or family member has requested or received genetic testing information.

In addition, this legislation would prohibit insurers from varying the premiums, terms or conditions of coverage on the basis of genetic information.

Mr. Speaker, currently there are insufficient laws to protect not only the disclosure of genetic information but also its use, and we are beginning to hear frightening stories about discrimination against people who are perceived to be at risk in the future for certain diseases.

Certainly, it is a miracle of modern medicine that doctors and scientists can now screen for hundreds of genetic conditions including cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, and muscular dystrophy and can save lives through early detection. It is not a miracle, however, for those who are subsequently denied coverage based on the detection of one of these genes, especially because we know that carrying a certain gene does not mean that a disease will ultimately become manifest.

At this time, 13 States have already enacted or are currently considering legislation to address the problem of genetic discrimination. However, Federal law is needed because employers that self-insure are exempt from State mandates due to ERISA preemption—which counts for 50 percent of all insured Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a few stories with you which really illustrate the need for legislation. A pregnant woman whose fetus tested positive for cystic fibrosis was told that her HMO would be willing to cover the cost of abortion but would not cover the infant if she elected to carry it to term. In another instance, a healthy 5-month-old boy was denied health insurance because he had a gene that predisposed him to a heart attack, even though

the child was taking medication that eliminated the risk of cardiac problems.

Mr. Speaker, there are countless stories surfacing with equally horrific consequences. Yet, while genetic information may provide clues to future health risks, it is not the only factor in determining risk. No doubt there are countless stories of people overcoming these odds and leading perfectly healthy lives. Why should they have to function with a handicap which is completely out of their control when they are otherwise perfectly healthy? It is time for Congress to show our commitment to protecting the American people from this kind of discrimination.

HUNGARY'S RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBORS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the joint declaration adopted in Budapest on July 5 by representatives of the Hungarian Government and by representatives of Hungarian communities abroad—the so-called Hungarian-Hungarian summit declaration. The status of the various and sizable Hungarian minority communities in Romania, Slovakia, and Serbia is of considerable interest to many in Congress. How governments treat their minority communities is often a significant barometer of how they will treat their citizens as a whole, and a strong indicator of the progress of democratization in countries in transition.

In fact, I remain concerned about the minority situation in each of these countries, and, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, have raised such concerns on a number of occasions. Many hoped the Hungarian-Hungarian summit document would provide some useful insight into the concrete concerns of Hungarian minorities.

Unfortunately, the summit document adopted in Budapest does not address the kind of specific and concrete issues that are usually raised with the Commission, such as minority language schooling or electoral districting. Instead, the declaration stands as a broad and somewhat ambiguous endorsement of "autonomy" and "self-government." Those terms—guaranteed to alarm those already afraid of alleged Hungarian irredentism—were unfortunately left undefined, fostering the perception in some quarters that the declaration represents only a thinly veiled effort by Budapest to extend its influence beyond current Hungarian borders and, implicitly, to turn back the clock to the days when Hungarians were united in a single country.

I appreciate the Hungarian Embassy's willingness to clarify for the Commission the underlying intent of his declaration. In particular, the Embassy asserted that the word "autonomy" was in no way intended to signal "territorial autonomy." I also believe the declaration's positive emphasis on the importance of the accession of all Hungary's neighbors into NATO and the European Union should not be overlooked and, indeed, is especially important in light of the recent congressional debate on NATO expansion.

Nevertheless, I believe that the declaration, through the use of wording that is ambiguous

at best and, at worst, predictably inflammatory, stands in contradiction to Hungary's stated goal of pursuing "good neighbor" policies. Surprisingly, Hungary implies that its goal of gaining admission to NATO and other European organizations should be dependent on "the fundamental interests of Hungarian national communities abroad"—a message that suggests a qualified interest in accession to NATO.

Finally, I must note that concerns about this declaration were only heightened by the statement of the Hungarian representative to the OSCE in Vienna, Ambassador Martin Krasznai. In defending the use of the word "autonomy," Ambassador Krasznai presented the Basques, Catalans, and South-Tyrolean as positive examples of Europe's experience with autonomous movements. The irony of these particular references was probably not lost on the representatives of Italy or Spain—especially in the wake of the numerous terrorist bombings attributed to Basque separatists last month.

Mr. Speaker, while a rare opportunity for discussion about real minority concerns may have been missed, I also see the Hungarian-Hungarian summit declaration as an aberration from the current government's usually constructive approach. I will continue to follow the situation of minority communities in central Europe and the inseparable issue of the progress of democratization in general. As I do so, I hope that Hungarian representatives will join with the Commission in seeking to promote democracy for all the citizens of all the countries of the OSCE.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY MARK HANKINS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize Mr. Anthony Mark Hankins who is being honored as a fashion designer in Washington, DC.

At the age of 7, Anthony Mark Hankins designed and stitched a suit for his mother which she actually wore to an important wedding—crooked seams and all. She bragged to her friends that "little Anthony" had made her suit. With this, a designer was born.

Mr. Hankins began his career designing and sewing clothes for other women in town, prom dresses for his peers, theatrical costumes, and marching band uniforms. He enrolled at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, then traveled to Paris to study at the Ecole de la Chambre Syndicale de la Couture. After returning to the United States, he worked for two seasons with Adrienne Vittadini before taking a job with the J.C. Penney Co. as a factory field inspector in their quality control division.

Anthony Mark Hankins is a consummate professional. He is a fashion designer who designs his clothes at a reasonable price so that those who might not otherwise be able to purchase quality clothing will be able to do so. Mr. Hankins was cited in the Wall Street Journal in a front page story as "the Calvin Klein of the coupon clipping set."

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Hankins and best wishes for contin-

ued success for all of his endeavors with his high-quality, price-conscious clothing line.

ASIAN GOVERNMENTS COLLUDE IN DRACONIAN CONSPIRACY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention that the Governments of India, Thailand, and Nepal have colluded to abduct Sikhs living abroad and transport them to India in complete violation of pertinent human rights treaty and customary law. Two cases highlight this alarming trend.

On July 16 at 6 a.m., about 20 Thai police officers surrounded a house owned by a Thai Sikh. Police entered the house and arrested the owner along with a Sikh independence activist named Nam Singh, a Pakistani passport holder who was working in Thailand on a valid Thai work permit. Although the owner of the house was eventually released, Nam Singh was detained and held without formal charge or access to loved ones and legal counsel. Twenty-four hours later, the owner of the house where Nam Singh was staying retained the help of a well-known Thai human rights activist, Mr. Thonghai Thongpao. But by then it was too late.

Mr. Singh had been secretly placed on flight TG3112 bound for Katmandu where Nepalese authorities transferred Mr. Singh to Indian authorities. It is my understanding that Mr. Singh has been brought before a Punjab court and has been charged. However, given the illegality of his abduction, I have no idea what the charge may be. I have enclosed a copy of a letter sent by Thai Sikhs to the Center for Human Rights in Geneva, the letter details Nam Singh's abduction.

The second case is with regard to Mr. Jagjit Singh Chohan, an elder Sikh independence leader from the United Kingdom. Mr. Chohan's story has already been presented, however, I want to highlight his inhumane treatment by Thai police officials. After Mr. Chohan was brutally beaten by Indian officials and placed back on the plane, and after he was assured by Thai Airways managers that he would receive medical treatment upon arrival in Bangkok, Mr. Chohan was instead placed in a detention center for 18 hours without access to medical treatment, he could not even make a telephone call. Mr. Chohan was lucky, he had his medication with him, without it, the beating which he suffered coupled with his detention may have resulted in his death.

Mr. Speaker, both Mr. Chohan and Nam Singh have been treated worse than animals, apparently as a result of some unspoken alliance between Thai, Indian, and in the case of Nam Singh, Nepalese authorities. If these two were bona fide suspects, surely some formal proceeding should have been undertaken. But I suspect that the rule of law was not foremost in the minds of the police and government officials who brutalized the two Sikhs. In little over 2 months, the Indian Government has illegally detained United States citizen Balbir Singh Dhillon in violation of United States sovereignty, brutalized an elder Sikh leader living in the United Kingdom for 18 years and apparently arranged the virtual kidnapping of a Sikh whose citizenship is Pakistani.

Secretary of State Christopher, recently and rightfully, attacked Indonesia's human rights record. However, the United States must employ a consistent standard of human rights for all countries, whether they are friends or foes. The United States should openly condemn these extrajudicial abductions and deportations by Indian, Thai, and Nepalese authorities. The current practice of condemning one country's human rights violations while ignoring others creates a double standard which leaves us open to accusations of racial and ethnic bias.

Copy of Fax received from: Sikh residents of Thailand. Dated: July 18, 1996. Addressed to: The Centre for Human Rights—Geneva. Copied to: Council of Khalistan—Washington, DC.

DEAR SIR: We the Sikh residents of Thailand solemnly affirm that on the 15th of July around 6:00 AM a house owned by a Thai Sikh was encircled and searched by about twenty fully armed Thai policemen. Nothing incriminating was found in the house. The police arrested and detained the owner of the house along with a pro-Khalistan activist named Mr. Nam Singh who is well known in the Indian Government circles as Kanwar Pal Singh Chawla of Amritsar who was holding a Pakistan passport and a Thai work permit.

The pro-Khalistani activist or the so-called extremist is reported to have been outside India for several years and was only attached to the political wing of the Khalistan movement and was not involved directly or indirectly in any kind of violent actions.

The owner of the house was cleared on bail around 6 o'clock on the same evening on the minor charge of harbouring an alien.

The pro-Khalistani or the so-called extremist was interrogated for long hours and forced to sign un-specified papers and was denied and deprived of his fundamental right to have an access to legal advice. No visitors were allowed to see or talk to him. On the following morning the owner of the house contacted in person a Thai Human Rights activist and Magsasay Award winner Mr. Thonghait Thongpao to seek his help in this matter. Before Mr. Thongpao could do anything about the so-called extremist the Thai police secretly put him on flight TG3112 to Katmandu to be handed over to the Indian authorities which is grossly against Human Rights. As he was a bona-fide Pakistan holder and had a legal and valid Thai work permit he should have either been deported to Pakistan or be allowed to fight his case in Thailand. We have no knowledge whatsoever whether this unwarranted action of the Thai police was taken with the knowledge of the Thai government or not. If he was on the so-called "wanted" list of the Indian government the Indian authorities should have gone through the proper and legal channels to have him deported directly to India instead of Nepal. The reason for deporting the "extremist" to Nepal and not India is an old Indian tact to fool the world that an armed militant was killed while trying to infiltrate into India using Pakistani passport via Nepal.

We the Sikh residents of Thailand would really appreciate if the Centre for Human Rights could look into this matter and take the necessary and urgent measures with the Indian government to ensure that the so-called extremist is humanely and well treated and justice is done with him. Please make sure that he is not subject to a third degree torture or killed in false encounter.

Thanking you in anticipation for your favorable and prompt action.

Truly Yours,

SIKH RESIDENTS OF THAILAND.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we in Maryland are a proud lot. We take pride in the natural beauty of our State, in its diverse and flourishing business community, and in the variety and character of our citizens.

It is with this deeply instilled pride that I rise today to report the recent outstanding successes of one of the crown jewels in our State's educational system, the University of Maryland.

The University of Maryland at College Park is consistently noted as one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the country. To bolster this widely held view, the U.S. News and World Report's "Graduate Rankings Issue" hit the newsstands this spring to announce that an impressive number of the University of Maryland's graduate programs were ranked in the top tier. In fact, no university—public or private—in the mid-Atlantic region and few public universities in the country scored as consistently high as the University of Maryland in fields ranging from journalism, business, economics, and computer sciences to mathematics, physics, education, and engineering.

Specifically, the U.S. News and World Report survey ranked the public relations program in the college of journalism No. 1 in the Nation. The college of business and management was ranked in the top 25 in the country. The college of education and the A. James Clark School of Engineering, as well as the departments of computer science, mathematics and physics, were also highly ranked.

These achievements in excellence speak highly of the students and faculty thriving to achieve greatness and advance the threshold of knowledge.

But the excellence does not end there. It was nothing less than the national championship for the University of Maryland mock trial team. Competing with prestigious schools from across the country, including Yale, Cornell, Duke, Georgetown, and Carnegie Mellon, the Terps took home the top prize.

Not to be outdone, a team from the University of Maryland took top honors at this year's Texas Instruments DSP—digital signal processors—Solutions Challenge. The team of three beat out teams from MIT, Princeton, and the University of California-Berkeley, among other schools to grab first prize. The team's successful design used a video compression system that compresses the large volume of data needed for the representation of video signals, making it possible to transmit video signals over communication channels, such as telephone lines.

And if Marylanders weren't already bursting with pride over these accomplishments, the Terps became the first ever back-to-back champions in women's division I lacrosse by defeating our neighbors, the Virginia Cavaliers. The win also extended their NCAA record for consecutive wins to 36.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Maryland is truly committed to excellence, both in the classroom and on the athletic field. These achievements make me extremely proud to have this fine institution in my district. I look

forward to reporting further their scholastic and academic successes in the near future.

VISION IS MORE THAN SEEING

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of us take our senses for granted, until some situation comes so close to us that we can no longer ignore the fact that some people cannot see, cannot hear, or cannot do some other thing that the rest of us do thousands of times each day.

Last year, the Saginaw News, under the editorial leadership of Paul Chaffee, the moving photography of Steve Jessmore, and the profound writing skills of Jean Spenner, published a wonderful story entitled "Blind Faith." The story detailed how the more than 500 students of Carrollton Elementary School worked for 11 months to train Carl, a lovable puppy, into a leader dog who has become the source of sight for Gordon W. Bailey, a motorcycling minister from Kansas City, MO.

Steve Jessmore won several well deserved awards for his photography in this 24-page story. He was named the "Midwestern Region Photographer of the Year" by the National Press Photographers Association, the "Michigan Photographer of the Year" by the Michigan Press Photographers Association, and won the Barry Edmonds Michigan Understanding Award by the Michigan Association. It seems rather poignant that the story of a man who could no longer see without help was so strongly portrayed by Steve's moving photographs. Every shot served to remind us that we take for granted one of God's blessings. It also served to demonstrate that even though many of us can see, we can still be blind to what is in front of us without the skilled assistance of a photographer with a vision for the ordinary things around us that are so important.

The series itself also won the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for Photo Journalism, the Detroit Press Club Foundation Award, the Women in Communications Great Lakes Regional Journalism Competition, and the Lincoln University Unity Award.

Chris Chambers, the fifth grade teacher at Carrollton Elementary, and her students learned about a puppy growing into a dog, leader dogs, and the very important training work done by Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, MI. They also learned about holding fundraisers to pay for the expenses of their dreams.

After a year at Carrollton Elementary School, Carl goes on to Leader Dogs for the Blind where he becomes the 10,048th dog graduated from the organization since 1939. He met his new owner, Gordon Bailey, who continued training with him. Remarkably, Carl, as a puppy, made a difference in the lives of the students at Carrollton Elementary, and as a leader dog has restored a great freedom of mobility to Gordon Bailey.

There are times when many of us criticize the media for concentrating on bad news. This is one time when these proficient journalists have brought us a moving story of hope, of sacrifice, of need, and success. I commend

this story by the Saginaw News to you and our colleagues and urge all of you to look for these stories of worth from your own media. Let editors, reporters, and photographers know that we appreciate what they do, and want to see more of it.

HONORING THE BERLOFSKYS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor two good friends and neighbors, Miriam and Jerome Berlofsky, who are celebrating 35 years of marriage this November. The Berlofskys are active and vital citizens in my home community of Co-op City.

Since 1951, Jerome has been a knight in the Fraternal Order Knights of Pythias, Kingsbridge Lodge No. 810, and participated in many of the altruistic endeavors of that organization. Miriam joined the Pythias Sisters in 1960 and has worked tirelessly in many capacities, culminating in her election as grand chief of the State of New York in 1984. The Berlofskys have always been active in their faith as members of the Traditional Synagogue of Co-op City and holding several important positions. They are charter members of the AARP Co-op City chapter and they bring culture and entertainment to the community as members of the Bronx Concert Singers.

This is just a partial list of the many good deeds performed by the Berlofskys. Perhaps more than anything else, however, they are most proud of the enduring love and the joy they have had in raising their son, Rodger. On this special occasion I want to join with their family and friends in wishing them happiness and good health.

CONGRATULATING GERIC HOME HEALTH CARE, INC.

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute GERIC Home Health Care, Inc. This outstanding business which is located in my congressional district was recently selected to receive the Entrepreneur of the Year Award. I am proud to extend my congratulations to GERIC's founders, Gwen and Eric Johnson, as they mark this outstanding achievement.

The Entrepreneur of the Year program was founded by the professional services firm of Ernst & Young. The program recognizes entrepreneurs who have demonstrated excellence in such areas as innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their businesses and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that GERIC Home Health Care received the Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the area of social responsibility. Since the company's inception 4 years ago, this mother and son team has demonstrated a sincere commitment to improving the Cleveland community.

GERIC is now the fastest growing home health care agency in northeast Ohio. The

company provides services such as skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and social services. GERIC has been able to provide critical jobs and job training opportunities throughout the greater Cleveland area. Equally important, the company has provided high quality health care services to some of our most vulnerable populations.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting Gwen and Eric Johnson, and members of the GERIC Home Health Care family. I am proud of their selection for the Entrepreneur of the Year Award and I am pleased to recognize their efforts.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTH COUNTRY LIBRARY IN BELLPORT, NY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to the South Country Library in Bellport, Long Island, which is celebrating the centennial of its founding this year.

The Bellport Library was originally organized in 1897 because of the foresight and enthusiasm of 14 young women who called themselves the Entre Nous Club. Seeing the need for a library in their bustling seaside village, the Entre Nous Club raised money by sponsoring a reception in the home of one of its members, Mrs. Spencer S.W. Toms. Each member brought with them a book—60 books were collected that day—forming the nucleus of the Bellport Library.

In 1919, village residents met at the home of Mrs. Charles E. Osborn to plan a memorial in honor of local soldiers and sailors who sacrificed their lives in World War I. It was decided to build a new library building and dedicate it to the fallen soldiers. The seed money raised at a block party was used to incorporate the Bellport Memorial Library Association in 1920. Mrs. Frederick Edey opened her playhouse to hold benefits for the library, Mrs. Edward Bok of Philadelphia, a summer resident, gave \$1,000 toward the library building, and Mrs. J.L.B. Mott donated the property.

The charming library building became a reality in 1923, at a cost of \$8,000, and stood on the site of Capt. Thomas Bell's apple orchard. In 1924, the library was registered under the New York State Board of Regents. In 1926, the memorial tablet was dedicated and a portrait of Mrs. Mott was hung above the mantel.

During the 1950's the library association was extended to include all residents of the South Country School District. Then in 1986, the library moved to its modern building on Station Road and changed its name to the South Country Library to reflect its service to the entire school district.

In 1997, the library will celebrate the centennial of its organization and on August 17, 1996, a centennial fundraising event is being held to launch a season of celebratory programs at the library.

During the past 100 years, the South Country Library has maintained a strong commitment to scholarship. Occupying small quarters in its early days, the library has grown in both scope and size since 1897. With the dedication of its founders, the hard work of the board

of trustees, librarians, and staff members, it has become a wonderful resource for the school district and entire community. We must continue to promote literacy and education throughout Long Island. With the help of the South Country Library, we can continue to achieve these goals as we move into the next century.

CLUSTER RULE STATEMENT

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak today, along with many of my colleagues, regarding the cluster rule for the pulp and paper industry and specifically the EPA's July 15 Federal Register notice.

America's forest and paper industry ranges from state-of-the-art paper mills to small family-owned saw mills. In New York State, the industry plays an integral role in keeping and creating jobs. This industry ranks in the top half of manufacturing industries in the State, representing over 5 percent of the work force. Employing 62,300 workers, the timber business carries a payroll of \$1.9 billion and will expend a total of \$263 million for upgrading operations.

The original cluster rule, as proposed in 1993, would have jeopardized over 33 mills nationwide, the loss of 21,500 direct mill jobs and 86,000 additional jobs, for a total of 107,500 American jobs lost. This was clearly unacceptable.

Over the past 3 years since the cluster rule was proposed, many of us have closely monitored its development. I have always urged creation of an alternative approach that will not destroy jobs or the economic well-being of the vital timber industry. With the recognition of the need for this approach, I commend the EPA for the work which has been done to present a more balanced option of the cluster rule and urge quick approval of this alternative approach.

We must continue to support the pulp and paper industry in this country by encouraging the implementation of this fair cluster rule. Specifically, I support the option that allows the complete substitution of elemental chlorine with chlorine dioxide. This alternative, known as best available technology option A, will provide virtually the same level of environmental and health protection as the original approach the Environmental Protection Agency introduced in 1993.

The EPA's own research demonstrates that the main difference between these two options is the exorbitant costs associated with the earlier approach. Improving the environment remains an immediate concern. However, the original cluster rule proposal goes beyond what is necessary to protect the environment and the public. We must be careful not to endanger workers and their families. Option A protects both jobs and our environment.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support option A and encourage using this opportunity to rectify the unnecessary costs associated with the original cluster rule proposal. This Government, with this Congress' support, must put forward a final regulation which will assure a more responsible approach to environmental health

and continued growth in the pulp and paper industry.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MY MENTOR,
FRED LANDOLPHI

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on August 18, during our August district work period, one of my mentors will celebrate his 88th birthday. This special person is Mr. Fred Landolphi. When I was a young teacher, Mr. Landolphi was the principal of my school, South Side High School in Newark, NJ. I learned a great deal from him. Today, several of my philosophies can be directly attributed to him.

I would like to share with my colleagues one of Mr. Landolphi's bright moments to illustrate why he has been such an influence on so many lives.

In 1960, Mr. Landolphi was selected Principal of the Year in the annual nationwide search for outstanding elementary and secondary school heads by Croft Publishers. The judges based their choice of Mr. Landolphi on the nominating statement submitted by his faculty. This statement read in part:

In justice, a manual on ideal school administration is necessary to convey the qualities of Fred Landolphi, for he is the creative center of the activities of South Side High School, both within the school's physical plant and in the community in general.

When he assumed the principalship of the school, morale, good manners, scholarship, loyalty and devotion had reached an unpleasant ebb. A fine by disunited faculty was valiantly, but aimlessly and dejectedly, trying to adjust to a complete turnover in the nature of the student body. An unhappy and rebellious student body was vociferously and, in some cases, violently reacting to the school situation because they were without clearly stated principles of behavior, without clearly stated scholastic aims, without leadership in the cohesive and inspiring aspects of school spirit.

This dismal situation has slowly, patiently, and decisively changed since Mr. Landolphi became our principal. He has accomplished the material rejuvenation of the structure and the revitalization of student-teacher-community morale.

At the time, Mr. Landolphi spoke of a principal that had guided him through this 29-year teaching career. He felt that you had to give the students a feeling of confidence. You had to let them know that you're interested in them and that you only bawl them out because you care for them.

Mr. Landolphi established the South Side Scholarship Fund because he noted that while the most gifted of his students were able to win scholarships, other youngsters with great potential were denied a college education because of poverty.

As a teacher and youth advocate, I have treated the thousands of young people with whom I have had contact just as Mr. Landolphi did. I treat them with respect and challenge them to plan and reach for the stars. For more than 20 years at high school seniors awards programs, I have presented the Donald M. Payne Award to seniors who

are not the stars of the graduating classes but have done the best they can, sometimes under difficult circumstances, to become a productive member of our society. I want them to know that doing one's best is extremely important. That was something I learned from Mr. Landolphi.

I want to personally thank him for the confidence he showed me during my first teaching assignment. We had many discussions about my experience as a new teacher. He always put a positive spin on any dilemma. In 1970 I became president of the YMCA of the USA probably as a result of Mr. Landolphi's encouragement and support. He supported my concepts of after-school programs and encouraged me to continue to work with our young people through the "Y" experience.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will want to join me and many of Mr. Landolphi's former students as we wish him a happy birthday and wish him and his wife the best.

MEL RENFRO INDUCTED INTO PRO
FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate a former Dallas Cowboy and good friend, Mr. Mel Renfro, for his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He is the seventh Cowboy to be inducted.

After leaving the Dallas Cowboys, Mel Renfro worked as a scout for the Cowboys and dabbled in various business deals. In 1983, Mr. Renfro began a sojourn that took him all over the United States until he settled in Portland, OR. He returned to Portland with a dream of revitalizing the northeast community where he grew up. He understood the importance of giving something back to his community.

From the very start of Mel Renfro's tenure with the Dallas Cowboys, he was known as an impact player. In the Cowboys' man-to-man scheme, Mr. Renfro eliminated receivers from the game. His long arms and instincts allowed him to anticipate routes and deflect or intercept passes. One of Mr. Renfro's biggest assets was his ability to sprint backward, meaning he didn't have to come out of his backpedal until late in the route. He was very much the Deion Sanders of the Cowboys for the seventies and early eighties.

Mel Renfro's induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame is a well-deserved reward, and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate him for his well-deserved recognition. I urge my colleagues to join with me in thanking him for his work. He is proud to have been a Dallas Cowboy and he richly deserves his Pro Football Hall of Fame designation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HECTOR P.
GARCIA

HON. PETE GEREN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of an American

hero who dedicated his life to others and whose actions advanced the lives of millions. He founded the G.I. Forum, he was a war hero, and he unselfishly devoted his professional life to providing health care to citizens of his community.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia, a friend and a resident of my home State of Texas, was mourned by thousands as he was laid to rest last week. An immigrant from Mexico, Hector Garcia was dedicated to education, as was his father, and received a medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston after completing his undergraduate work at the University of Texas. He then volunteered for service in World War II and received a Bronze Star with six battle stars for his service.

Hector began his greatest work when he returned from the war and contracted with the Veterans Administration to treat veterans of World War I. When he learned that the Veterans Administration was not complying with the requirements of the GI bill of rights and was discriminating against Mexican-Americans, Dr. Garcia gave birth to the American G.I. Forum with a mission to fight racial discrimination.

Hector Garcia believed in the American dream and worked to help others live that dream, using the American G.I. Forum to advance equality for all Americans. Long before the civil rights movement of the sixties, Hector Garcia confronted segregation in south Texas and helped bring it to an end. In addition to his work with the G.I. Forum, Hector Garcia continued his practice of medicine, often providing free medical care to those who could not afford it.

Hector Garcia once said that he did not deserve the awards that he had received, but appreciate them. Certainly, we all appreciate what Hector Garcia did for Mexican-Americans, my State of Texas, and for America.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of an American whose dedication and work for equal rights for all people will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO HARDING N. BOWMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, since arriving in New York City during the African-American Renaissance period of the 1930's, Harding N. Bowman, a native of Bowman, SC, has dedicated his life to uplifting and empowering his community.

Most notably, in the 1950's, Mr. Bowman founded the Barbershop Owners Association while owning and operating three barber-shops. In 1961, after moving to east New York, he was instrumental in organizing numerous community-based initiatives. Some of his key roles, to name a few, arising from such initiatives include: president, Council for a Better East New York; chairman, Community Redemption Foundation; treasurer, Citywide Council Against Poverty; director, United Negro and Puerto Rican Front; chairman, East New York Manpower; chairman, East New York Non-Profit Housing; executive director, East New York Community Corporation; and chairman, Jerome Street Block Association. In addition, for over 30 years, he has been an

active participant in various New York City political organizations that have produced electoral success. While participating in these activities, Mr. Bowman has managed to earn certificates and degrees from Goddard College, Pratt Institute, Staten Island Community College, and the New York Training Institute.

Married to Phyllis Bowman for 47 years, he is a father of seven, a grandfather, and a great grandfather. At age 75, Harding Bowman continues to help the community by staying active and admonishing elected officials "not to forget where they came from." I am pleased to recognize his outstanding contributions and to introduce him to my colleagues.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARLES COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, It is a great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Charles County Courthouse in Maryland. Located in the town of La Plata with a unique history, the Courthouse has special meaning to the entire region.

Court was convened for the first time at the Charles County Courthouse on May 25, 1658, in what is currently referred to as Port Tobacco. In 1674, a building was erected at Moore's Lodge about one mile from La Plata. This building was abandoned in 1728 and the courts moved back to original dwellings in Port Tobacco. This was one of the earliest known communities on the east coast and it later became the site of Charles County Colonial government.

The courthouse was completed in 1729 at a cost of 12,000 pounds of tobacco. Destroyed by a windstorm in the early 1800's, a brick structure was built on the same site and occupied by 1820. A suspicious fire completely destroyed the courthouse, reportedly due to the controversy surrounding the proposed move of the county seat to La Plata. In 1894, the legislature approved moving the county seat and provided for a special election to determine the site. On June 4, 1895 La Plata was picked to become the county seat. Completed in 1896 under architect Joseph C. Johnson, a brick Victorian Gothic edifice was built on the present site.

This new courthouse changed little over the years, until the completion of the south addition in 1954. This addition was actually much larger than the original courthouse, easily doubling the size. The courthouse was dedicated with fitting ceremonies on October 2, 1954. In the mid-1970's, the rear of the 1896 building was extended in a typical 18th century style, completely covering the old structure. Today the courthouse is in continuous use, serving as one of the focal points of the growing Charles County region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the fine people of Charles County on this momentous occasion and in wishing the best of luck for the courthouse and its occupants over the next 100 years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DECATUR AIRPORT

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Decatur Airport, owned and operated by the Decatur Park District, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary of service to the community. Since its inception in 1946, the Decatur Airport has provided an excellent facility as a gateway to the national air transportation system and a vital link to the rest of the globe. Due to the airport's emphasis of superior safety and maintenance, public relations, and Federal grant administration, it is not surprising that this facility earned the coveted Airport of the Year awards from the State of Illinois in 1988, 1994, and again in 1996, its golden anniversary year.

The Decatur Airport serves not only the various facets of aviation—general and corporate aviation, military, scheduled passenger, and air cargo carrier services—but also as an economic engine for the community. The airport and the various businesses and agencies that call it home generate in excess of \$35 million in total economic impact for the community of Decatur and the surrounding area, as well as providing employment for over 400 of its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on August 31, 1996, the Decatur Airport will offer a 50th Birthday Party for the community to celebrate this half-century of progress with special events both on the ground and in the air for all to enjoy. I am proud to join with the citizens of Decatur and other airport users in congratulating the Decatur Park District on their foresight and efforts in developing the Decatur Airport into the superior facility it has grown to be. It is an honor to represent the Decatur area in the U.S. Congress, and I wish the airport continued success as it ventures into the 21st century.

ESTABLISH A 3-YEAR PILOT PRO- GRAM FOR KOREAN NATIONALS

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today—along with my colleague Mr. ABERCROMBIE—to offer legislation which would establish a 3-year pilot program that would waive the visa requirement of Korean nationals who travel to the United States in tour groups.

While I still believe that a bill that includes Korea in the overall Visa Waiver Pilot Program is the best answer, I realize there are still some obstacles that need to be worked out. Therefore the bill we introduce today is a good first step and I commend the gentleman from Hawaii for it.

My reasons for cosponsoring this legislation are twofold: First, the current situation at the U.S. Embassy's Consular Affairs office in Seoul is embarrassing and unacceptable. The problem stems from two counteracting forces: the lack of sufficient space and personnel in the Consular Affairs office and the ever increasing number of South Koreans requesting nonimmigrant, visitor visas.

Currently, the Consular Affairs office in Seoul is understaffed, over-worked and unable to meet the demands of reviewing over 2,000 visa applications per day. This unfortunate situation has resulted in extremely long lines of potential tourists to the United States who are growing more and more impatient, annoyed and disheartened with the way they are being treated.

During a recent trip to South Korea, I personally witnessed the most shameful treatment of human beings. One potential tourist told me that he had been waiting in line for 3 days. Three days. He had come all the way from the southern end of South Korea, since the United States does not have any other Consular Affairs offices in Korea. Another woman, who appeared to be in her thirties, explained her frustration at having to stand outside during a thunderstorm because there is no shelter from the elements available. I was personally ashamed, as I suspect many of my colleagues would have been, by these tales of inhumane treatment.

These are but two examples of the growing frustration and disappointment many South Koreans are vocalizing. This has resulted in a growing sentiment of discontent with the United States. They rightly point out that this is no way for friends to treat friends. If we are to retain our place in the hearts of the Korean people we must do something to reverse this trend. While I have been able to persuade the State Department to focus more resources in this area, and while the worst of these situations have been resolved—at least for the time being—there remains a tremendous backlog and frequent examples of frustrating delays and arbitrary rejections. Providing a visa waiver for tour groups would alleviate some of this problem.

My second reason for cosponsoring this legislation is pure economics. Currently, South Korea is the sixth largest trading partner with the United States. This has resulted in total United States exports equalling over \$14 billion with a cumulative direct investment of over \$1 billion by United States companies in South Korea. This ever growing market has allowed for a continued growth in personal incomes for the South Korean people. The net result has been an increased demand by Korean tourists to visit the United States.

According to the Travel and Tourism Administration, South Korean arrivals were expected to reach over 600,000 in 1995, up an astonishing 900 percent from the 1987 levels. Of the over 400,000 South Korean travelers who came to the United States in 1993, 35 percent came for vacations or holidays with another 35 percent coming to visit friends or relatives. Most of such travel has been to California, New York, Hawaii, Arizona, and Florida. With an estimated \$1 billion in potential tourism dollars to spend, it is easy to see the importance of promoting easier access to the U.S. tourist market which has experienced considerable losses over the past few years. Simply put, more Korean tourists equals more business and jobs in the United States.

My home State of California is a perfect example of how important tourism is to the United States. According to the California Division of Tourism, California's travel and tourism industry generates \$55.7 billion annually, which is 6.5 percent of the Gross State Product. Overall, California would rank eighth in terms of international tourism as a separate nation,

ahead of Switzerland, Singapore, Mexico, Canada, and Japan.

On a more national front, travel and tourism is the third largest employer in the Nation after business and health services. In fact, travel exceeds the combined payrolls of the U.S. steel and motor vehicles manufacturing industries. Between 1983 and 1993, travel-related employment and payroll has steadily increase—with payrolls nearly doubling and the number of jobs rising 38 percent. These kinds of numbers only further the argument that travel and tourism will double in size over the next decade, resulting in more job opportunities for people throughout the world. The United States must work to ensure its place in the travel and tourism industry by opening our doors to an economy which has been growing continuously over the past decade—South Korea. America has always been the first choice of destination for almost all Koreans.

However, under the current situation of long lines and endless delays, many Koreans are fed up with waiting and are going instead to Canada—which has a waiver policy toward Korea—Europe or Australia. We stand to lose millions of dollars and thousands of American jobs because of our broken visa system.

The legislation we offer today would establish a 3-year pilot program that would waive the visa requirement for Korean nationals who travel to the United States in tour groups. Under the program, selected travel agencies in Korea would be allowed to issue temporary travel permits. The applicants would be required to meet the same prerequisites required by the U.S. Embassy.

This pilot program also includes additional restrictions to help prevent overstays. These include: The stay can be no longer than 15 days; The visitor must have a round-trip ticket; The visitor must pose no threat to the welfare, health, safety, or security of the United States; Tour operators must post a \$200,000 bond with the Secretary of State, and will be penalized if a visitor fails to return on time; tour operators will be required to provide written certification of the on-time return of each visitor within the tour group; the Secretary of State or Attorney General can terminate the program if the overstay rate exceeds 2 percent.

This bill represents a strong first step in solving the visa backlog in Seoul.

I urge my colleagues to join Mr. ABERCROMBIE and me and cosponsor this legislation.

JOINT COMMISSION ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AFFECTING ALASKA NATIVES

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer legislation which will authorize a study to assist in the implementation of the recommendation of the Joint Federal/State Commission on Policies and Programs affecting Alaska Natives. This legislation is needed to address the social and economic crisis status of Alaska Natives.

In 1990, President Bush signed Public Law 101-379 which created a public commission funded jointly by Federal and State appropriations to complete a comprehensive study on

the social and economic conditions of Alaska Natives and the effectiveness of programs and policies of the United States and the State of Alaska which provide services to the Alaska Native communities. This was in response to the 1989 report "Report on the Status of Alaska Natives: A Call for Action" published in cooperation by the Alaska Federation of Natives and the University of Alaska's Institute for Social and Economic Research. A 14-member commission was formed, half of whom were appointed by the President of the United States and the remainder of whom were appointed by the Governor of the State of Alaska.

The primary focus of the study was to provide an in-depth analysis, with specific recommendations to Congress, the President of the United States, the Alaska Legislature, the Governor of the State of Alaska, and the Native community on the social and economic conditions of Alaska Natives. The commission completed 2 years of research, public hearings, and task force discussions, and submitted its report to the Congress, the President of the United States, the Alaska Legislature, and the Governor of Alaska in May 1994.

Volume one of a three-volume report provides an overview and summary of 22 months of hearings, research, and deliberations. "Native Self-Reliance," "Native Self-Determination," and the "Integrity of Alaska Native Cultures" are the central fundamentals of the first volume. It also provides the historical causes of Native personal and cultural breakdowns. Also include in this first volume are statistics on Native social/cultural, judicial/correctional, economic, educational, physical/behavioral health problems. Finally, 34 main policy recommendations—plus an additional 76 recommendations—was submitted to the United States, and State of Alaska, the Alaska Native community and the general public.

Volume two provides a narrative text, data, and recommendations of five separate studies of Native problems conducted by the Commission's task forces: "Alaska Native Physical Health," "Social/Cultural Issues and the Alcohol Crisis," "Economic Issues and Rural Development; Alaska Native Education," and "Self-Governance & Self-Determination."

The final volume provides a full narrative text, data, and recommendations of two separate studies of Native public policy issues conducted by the Commission: "Alaska Native Subsistence," and "Alaska Native Tribal Government."

The Committee on Resources held a joint oversight hearing with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Indian Affairs Committee to accept testimony on the Alaska Native Commission report dated May 1994 from the Alaska Native Community, the Governor of the State of Alaska, industry representatives and from the administration. Their testimony focused on recommendations provided by the Commission report on how to address the extremely volatile social and economic conditions of Alaska Natives. This legislation is the outcome of the testimony accepted by all entities in the first step of addressing the crisis status of the Alaska Natives.

NATIONAL GUARD'S ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the illegal production, transportation, sale and use of drugs has caused widespread concern both in domestic and international circles. Unfortunately, illicit drugs are a lucrative business, with the total volume of drug trading estimated by some at many billions each and every year. Indeed, according to data released by the National Guard, the retail value of illegal drugs may now exceed international trade in oil, and is second only to the arms trade. The complex problems arising from drug abuse cannot be underestimated, and we need all of our government entities to unite in fighting this scourge.

The National Guard Bureau's Counterdrug Directorate is one entity that has done excellent work in combatting the spread of illicit substances in our schools and on the streets. Its citizen soldiers in our local communities, play a key role in support of local law enforcement, and local community action to battle illicit drugs and drug abuse, especially by our young.

The National Guard's supportive role is essential. They provide direct support to local and Federal law enforcement agencies, along with drug reduction activities in our schools, and in over 3,700 communities in the United States.

The National Guard Bureau Counterdrug Directorate serves to provide world-class counterdrug support to local, State, and Federal drug law enforcement agencies. Their expertise in the field of counter drug production, smuggling, and sale is being increasingly relied upon, not only by domestic agencies, but also by international law enforcement agencies as well.

Perhaps the National Guard's success lies in the premise that the Bureau permits civilian citizen soldiers to take a proactive role in confronting one of our greatest social problems, and thus contributing toward the quality of life in their local communities, and in our society overall.

The National Interagency Counterdrug Institute [NICI] is just a small example of the efforts made by the National Guard to train military organizations, civilian agencies, and community organizations in coordinated, and effective counter drug efforts. The goal is to improve the efficiency of support for civil authorities, and the National Guard has proven itself to be more than equal to this important challenge.

Indeed, the National Guard also provides critical, technical, and general support to law enforcement agencies, such as intelligence analysis, engineering support, language assistance, and cargo inspection. Their function does not end there, for the Guard will assist with aerial reconnaissance, and drug education efforts as well.

My own bill—H.R. 3524—introduced on May 23, 1996, would expand the role of the National Guard in helping the Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS] to efficiently and economically transport for eventual deportation, those criminal aliens who have violated a

Federal or State law prohibiting or regulating illegal substances. In instances such as these, the National Guard must be legally authorized by Congress when the desire arises, to fly these convicted illegal immigrants, linked to drugs, to Federal deportation centers for the processing out of our Nation. My bill will allow the National Guard to complete this necessary and essential job, and thus expediting the process of ridding our society of those who engage in the trade or promotion of illicit drugs, which threaten our communities and future generations.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HECTOR GARCIA

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of a great man of Texas. The passing of Mr. Hector P. Garcia of Corpus Christi was a significant loss to the State of Texas and to Mexican-Americans throughout the Southwest.

Dr. Garcia was a caring physician and a leader in the postwar struggle for Hispanic civil rights. He was the first Mexican-American appointed to serve on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In 1984, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In 1954, the American GI Forum, of which he was the founder, joined with the League of United Latin American Citizens to send a team of attorneys to successfully argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. The decision cleared the way for Hispanics to serve on trial juries.

A veteran of World War II campaigns in North Africa and Italy, Dr. Garcia always held America to its promises. He first gained national prominence because of a civil rights case in Three Rivers, TX. A funeral home there denied the use of its chapel to the family of a Mexican-American soldier who had been killed in the Philippines 4 years earlier and whose remains had just been transported to Texas for burial. Through the efforts of Dr. Garcia and then Senator Lyndon Johnson, the young Mexican-American was buried with full honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

With his passing, Texas has lost a great civil rights leader, and a great man.

HAPPY 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO MR. AND MRS. FRANK FARRELL

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Farrell of Naples, FL.

Frank and Floria were both born and raised in Minnesota. Frank, a native of Duluth, and Floria, a native of Hibbing, were married in 1946.

During World War II, Frank served as a fighter pilot in the southern Pacific theater. Altogether, he flew 33 combat missions in his P-51 Mustang.

After the war, Frank returned to school and graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1948. Upon graduation, he went to work for what was then the Northern Pacific Railroad and would later become the Burlington/Northern Railroad. During his long and distinguished career, he ran the law department and eventually retired as senior vice president of law in the early 1980's.

Frank and Floria were active in Minnesota politics for many years. Frank served as a member of the Minnesota GOP State Central Committee and eventually ran for the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1956 and the U.S. Congress in 1958.

In addition to his work in party politics, Frank led the fight to get the Minnesota State Legislature to reapportion itself. At the time, the metropolitan areas of Minnesota were growing rapidly. Yet, the State legislature was apportioned so that the per capita representation of the metropolitan areas was about one-third to one-half of the rest of the State. The legislators from the nonmetro areas refused to change the apportionment. This decision was a severe drain on the higher tax-assessed and underrepresented Twin Cities metro area counties. Frank's case, McGraw versus Donovan, eventually was instrumental in forcing the legislature to reapportion itself. A group in Tennessee later used Frank's briefs and strategy in their own case, Baker versus Carr, which went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. For his work on reapportionment, Frank was nominated for a Lasker Award.

Throughout the years, Frank and Floria have also been very active members in the community. Frank served on the board of directors of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Red Cross and on the board of the directors of Alina, one of the largest health maintenance organizations in Minnesota. In addition, he was chairman of the St. Paul Civic Center Authority which built the multimillion-dollar civic center in St. Paul. He also served as vice president of Junior Achievement in St. Paul and as president of the Ramsey County Bar Association.

Upon retirement, Frank and Floria moved to Naples, FL, where they have both remained active in community affairs.

Frank and Floria raised their three children, Frank, Mary Jane, and Alfred. They also are the proud grandparents of five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of their children, grandchildren, and many friends, I wish Frank and Floria a happy golden wedding anniversary in the hopes of many more to come.

JAMES FRED BOONE

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I honor today a fellow New Mexican and great American, James Fred Boone of Portales.

Fred Boone greatly distinguished himself during World War II in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States on the Kumagaya, Japan, raid of August 15, 1945. Then Lieutenant Boone demonstrated an exceptional act of courage by putting himself in an extremely dangerous

position, including risking his life. To assure the safety of his entire bomber group, he attempted to trigger electronically some of the bombs that failed to release in an aircraft. When Lieutenant Boone attempted to go through the bulkhead door, the wind blast was so strong that he opted to go to the front of the aircraft. In order to accomplish this, he had to cross over the mid-window section which he could not do with his parachute on. He, therefore, removed his parachute and entered the forward bay with the bomb bay doors open. Lieutenant Boone then pried the bombs loose with a screw driver, in an awkward position of practically standing on his head, while the crew watched in suspense. His valor and courage will never be forgotten.

I invite my colleagues, all New Mexicans and the entire Nation, to join me in paying tribute to this very great America. His valor and courage will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO FOUR PILLARS OF THE ART COMMUNITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize four pillars of the local art community who were honored by the Dallas Visual Art Center. This distinction was presented by the Dallas Visual Art Center to individuals who have contributed to the advancement of the visual arts in Texas. The four recipients of this award are: Mr. Raymond D. Nasher, art collector; Mr. Barney Delabano and Mr. Octavio Medellin, both artists; and Patricia Meadows, the center's cofounder—who received special recognition.

In Dallas, we enjoy a rich heritage of philanthropy. We live in a giving community, and all four of these gifted individuals believe in giving back to the community. Together, the honorees represent the necessary components of a cultural community—the teacher, the artist, the patron, and the promoter.

PASTOR TO MANY, FRIEND TO ALL

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I bring to the attention to the U.S. House of Representatives and this Nation not just the announcement of the retirement of an outstanding member of the clergy in my Northern Michigan congressional district, but that I have the opportunity to relay to you the many contributions that Reverend Edwin J. Frederick has made to his faith, community, and priesthood.

Most affectionately known to all as Father Fred, he attended grade school and high school in his home town of Grand Rapids and later earned a Bachelor's degree at Sacred Heart in Detroit. Post graduate work earned him a Masters degree in Philosophy and Theology at Grand Seminary, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. On June 3, 1950, he was ordained a Roman Catholic priest.

During the 1950's, Father Fred was assigned to various churches in Michigan including Sacred Heart in Mt. Pleasant, St. Joseph's Church in Manistee, St. Michael's in Muskegon, and Our Lady of Assumption in Rothbury. After completing one year at the Carmelite Monastery in Traverse City in 1960, Father Fred was then assigned to the Traverse City Regional Psychiatric Hospital where he remained from 1959 until the hospital closed in 1989.

For the past six years, Father Fred has served as Pastor of St. Joseph's parish in Mapleton, MI. It has been at St. Joseph's Parish where Father Fred has done his best work. As pastor, he has made numerous physical improvements to the parish and provided accessibility to the facilities for the physically impaired.

Father Fred has touched many, many people over the years, but no one will question the tremendous influence he has had on and the love he has for children. He has baptized over 200 children in his last six years at St. Joseph's and truly considers them to be the lifeblood of the church and her future. The children of the parish, like the adults there and elsewhere, consider Father Fred to be more than their priest: they think of him as their friend.

Father Fred has truly made his mark on society with his extensive work and effort on behalf of the needy. After the hospital closed in 1989, he founded the Father Fred Foundation, an organization that provides food and clothing to those in need. The foundation has grown from what was a very small office to what is now a large building with over 100 volunteers. Fortunately for the foundation, he will continue to serve as its director after his retirement.

Father Fred reminds us every Thanksgiving that it is better "to serve than to receive" by hosting dinner at one of the area's finest restaurants, not for his parishioners, but for the needy. Father Fred recruits elected government leaders, community and business leaders as servers for his guests.

Father Fred has been recognized by numerous organizations for his work, including the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce who presented him in 1991 with the Distinguished Service Award. He is also the recipient of the Sara Hardy Memorial Award in recognition of his work on behalf of human rights.

In the book of Hebrews it states, "one does not take this honor on his own initiative, but only when called upon by God, as Aaron was * * * you are a priest forever." Father Fred has been called by God to be a spiritual leader and a humanitarian and has fulfilled each of those callings now and forever.

Mr. Speaker, Father Fred will be honored at a retirement dinner on August 11, 1996 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, Michigan. At that time, past and present parishioners, friends and family will thank him for all that he has done for them and so many others. On behalf of northern Michigan, the entire State and this House, I thank Father Fred for his contributions to so many causes and extend to him best wishes for an enjoyable retirement from the church and for many years to come as Director of the Father Fred Foundation.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 123) to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I stand in strong opposition to H.R. 123, the English Language Empowerment Act and in support of the Serrano English Plus substitute. H.R. 123 is divisive, unconstitutional, and unnecessary.

Supporters of this legislation say that it simply declares English as the official language. I contend that that is not true and that that bill's reach is far-reaching. Section 163(b) of the legislation states that "No person should be denied services, assistance, or facilities either directly or indirectly provided by the Federal Government solely because the person communicates in English." H.R. 123 provides an entitlement for those that speak English and permits citizens to sue. But what does that really mean? Well, at federally sponsored programs or benefits would have to be in English. If the Federal Government directly or indirectly supports opera, community cultural festivals, and even sports events like the Olympics, taxpayers are entitled to receive all federally sponsored services in English or they can sue.

The English-only requirement also would place restrictions on Internet communication. Because the Federal Government operates Internet servers, a Federal Web site that links into multilingual or non-English pages would indirectly provide services in other languages—depriving citizens of their right to English services—and would subject the Federal Government to frivolous lawsuits.

Telecommunications and broadcasting are not exempt from the bill's provisions. The Federal Government regulates telecommunications and grants, sells and regulates broadcasting licenses. Under the requirement of this bill, the Government would be prohibited from granting licenses to foreign language stations without the threat of a suit.

Even law enforcement could be handicapped by H.R. 123. While non-English languages may be used for reasons of public safety and to protect the rights of victims of crime or criminal defendants, what about the work that is done where neither the criminal nor the victim is identifiable? Much of the investigative work done by the FBI, DEA, and ISN falls into this category.

The substitute I will offer is the modified text of a bill of which I am the primary sponsor, House Concurrent Resolution 83, the English Plus resolution. It states the Government's policy should be to encourage English as our common language, to empower its citizens by encouraging multilingualism, and to promote English proficiency through educational opportunities; but also to avoid infringing on indigenous languages; and to oppose measures that place undue burdens on one's ability to obtain services, representation or protection from the Federal Government because of limited English proficiency.

English Plus maintains that the primary language of the United States is English and that all members of our society should recognize its importance. It proclaims that our Nation's strength lies in its pursuit of justice, opportunity, and diversity. It is unnecessary to legislate what we have established by custom and tradition. Clearly there's no threat to our common language. According to the 1990 census report, 97 percent of the American population speaks English. Of those who speak Spanish at home, 80 percent indicated that they speak English "well" or "very well."

English Plus recognizes that multilingualism is an asset, not a liability to our competitiveness in our global economy. Multilingualism encourages global competitiveness and better international relations. In fact, now more than ever Americans are learning foreign languages. According to a report by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, there has been a 5-percent increase in the number of high school students who take foreign language classes and more college students are taking an interest in foreign language classes.

We are a nation of immigrants and have built our culture upon that diversity. In fact, the authors of the Constitution drafted the document in both English and German. During World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war, the military used speakers of native American languages to communicate in a sort of unbreakable code. You can see an indication of the history of diversity in this nation if you look around at the names of cities like Los Angeles which is Spanish for "the angels" and Pueblo, CO, which is "City, Red" in English and the Rio Grande, "Big River," one of our natural resources. We have always been a nation with diverse languages and learning other languages should be encouraged.

My substitute opposes the imposition of unconstitutional language policies on the Federal Government and the American people. In 1923, the Supreme Court declared that restrictionist language policies like those in H.R. 123 were unconstitutional. In addition, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reaffirmed that view by nullifying Arizona's English-only policy. While we want everyone to be able to be proficient in English, we must not employ measures that are inconsistent with the Constitution's guarantees of freedom of speech, representative democracy, due process, and equal protection under the law.

The Serrano substitute supports the view that our Nation's strength lies in its pursuit of justice, freedom and opportunity. English-only supporters say that the common bond of our Nation is our language. Nothing can be further from the truth. Democracy—not religious, ethnic, or linguistic uniformity—is what holds this country together. Extremist language policies like H.R. 123 are divisive and racist, uniting people behind misplaced patriotism. Just think of the hardship that it would place on athletes and tourists at the Olympics if services and information were only provided in English. Inhumane policies like those found in H.R. 123, will only encourage divisiveness and resentment and delay full participation of all people in our society.

The Serrano substitute promotes the view that English proficiency is achieved through educational opportunities. Denying services and information will not help one single person learn English. Immigrants and new arrivals

want to learn English—I cannot stress that enough. Studies indicate that current immigrants are learning English faster than they did 100 years ago. In California, classes operate 24 hours a day and, in New York, some immigrants must wait up to 18 months to take classes to learn English. In response to that, Republicans in the House passed the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill which cut bilingual education, the program that teaches children information in their language and gradually makes the transition into completely English language classes. The House also cut the adult education program which provides funds for English as a Second Language classes.

The English Plus substitute maintains that services, information, and government protection should not be denied because of limited English proficiency. Among H.R. 123's provisions is the repeal of bilingual voting ballot requirement. It infringes on citizen's ability to receive information about elections and ballots in a language that they are comfortable with and violates the equal protection clause of the Constitution. In 1993, when I served as chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I authored legislation to broaden the requirements under section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, which apply to bilingual voting ballots, which Congress passed with bipartisan support. Even Presidential hopeful Bob Dole supported it. Under H.R. 123 citizens from American territories like Guam and Puerto Rico—who are born U.S. citizens—would be exempt from the bill only while they live in those jurisdictions. Once they move to the States, as many of my constituents did, they will not be able to receive information or services from the Government in Spanish.

My substitute maintains the belief that our democratic process demands the highest level of speech protection. As Members of Congress, it is essential that we be able to communicate, whether in writing or orally, with constituents, colleagues, and other government officials. It is not uncommon to receive requests for information in other languages. H.R. 123 would literally prohibit representatives from communicating in writing through correspondence, press releases, and newsletters, unless it is in English.

While I think that both our bills aim to strengthen our country, the English Plus substitute empowers by encouraging opportunity and diversity while H.R. 123 imposes divisive and restrictive policies that infringe on constitutional rights. My bill affirms that English is the common language of the United States and encourages citizens to learn it. I urge my colleagues to support the English Plus substitute and if it fails, vote "no" on H.R. 123, the English Language Empowerment Act.

HONORING RAUL S. VARGAS

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to a lifelong friend and colleague, Mr. Raul S. Vargas, director of the University of Southern California Mexican American Alumni Association as we celebrate 25 years of his valuable

service to Hispanic students pursuing a higher level of education.

Born on May 21, 1939 in Lordsburg, NM, to a family of coppermine workers, Mr. Vargas lost his father at the age of 2 in a tragic underground mining accident. His mother remarried and in 1944, his family resettled in a low-income complex in Miami, AZ—the place where he and his five siblings were raised. After his early years of schooling in Miami, his family relocated to San Manuel, AZ, in 1957. While in high school, he played the trombone, served as student body vice president, and was also a star basketball player for the Miami Vandals. After graduating high school, he moved on to Arizona State University where he received a degree in business administration in 1961.

Shortly after graduating from ASU, he served a 3-year tour of duty with the U.S. Army in Berlin. He returned to Arizona State University during 1964 to complete his teaching credentials. He obtained his teaching credentials in 1966 and began a distinguished career teaching in math and Spanish at the junior high school level in Ontario, CA.

In 1970, Mr. Vargas witnessed the Vietnam antiwar demonstrations and the East Los Angeles riots which inspired him to pursue social causes at the community level. His passion for fostering better relations between civic leaders and community members led him to work at the Rio Hondo Area Action Council [RHAAC] where he handled community action programs. However, his yearning to teach and work one-on-one with students led him back to the education sector where in 1971, he joined the faculty and staff of the University of Southern California.

It was at USC where he began working at the department of student affairs and services as director of the USC Mexican American Alumni Association. Mr. Vargas began primarily as an academic adviser providing guidance and counsel to students, who were primarily first-time college graduates of their respective families. He found these college students to be talented and hardworking who were often hampered by the financial constraints of a college education. Recognizing the impact of such constraints, he concluded that this was the source of high college dropout rates for Hispanic students.

Realizing the issue was not being addressed, Mr. Vargas decided to do something about the situation. In 1974, he set up a series of meetings with USC alumni, faculty, business and civic leaders, and students which established the foundation of the USC Mexican American Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Today, the USC-MAAA Scholarship Fund exceeds \$5.0 million dollars and has assisted over 3,500 students at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Because of his determination and hard work, Mr. Vargas did much more than fulfill his desire to help young students pursuing higher education—he committed his life to it and has changed peoples lives forever.

It was at Arizona State University where I met and shared a room with Mr. Vargas. Gradually, we developed a friendship that has grown and strengthened throughout the years on both a professional and personal level. As a former teacher myself, I commend Mr. Raul Vargas for having the vision to change individual lives, the courage to make his dreams a reality, and the commitment to follow through

with this plan for the past 25 years. I commend Raul Vargas for his hard work, determination, and invaluable contribution to our Nation's youth.

THE ECONOMY IS STRONG AND GROWING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, this morning we were going to hold a hearing of the Joint Economic Committee to hear the July jobs report. It was canceled. And that's a shame—because the President has an economic record any President could be proud of.

After 3½ years of President Clinton, the economy continues to grow stronger and stronger. We've created more than 10 million new jobs—a faster rate of job growth than under any Republican administration since the 1920's. In our global economy, job creating exports have increased by one-third—up \$162 billion. And today's job report, issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that we added 193,000 more jobs in July.

We have the highest rate of new business incorporations since World War II, with the Commerce Department reporting that our Nation's economy grew at an extremely healthy 4.2-percent annual rate from April through June, and with the lowest combined rates of unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rates since the 1960's.

Best of all for both working Americans and our fixed-income retirees under President Clinton we've sustained this growth while keeping inflation stable and low.

Mortgage rates are the lowest they've been in 30 years. The result: Millions of Americans have been able to purchase their first home, giving us the highest homeownership rate in 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, the current issue of Money Magazine reports: "The majority of Americans are better off on most pocketbook issues after 3½ years under [President] Clinton, who's presided over the kind of economic progress any Republican would be proud to post."

Barron's reports "In short, Clinton's economic record is remarkable. Clinton also rightfully boasted that, 'our economy is the healthiest that it has been in 30 years.'"

This record is no mere happenstance. It is the result of tough decisions. Under President Clinton, the deficit has been cut to \$117 billion this year—the lowest deficit as a percentage of GDP of any major economy—and less than half of what it was when he took office.

In fact, were it not for the interest on the debt accumulated during the Reagan and Bush years, we would be running a surplus. Alan Greenspan said earlier this year that the deficit reduction in President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan was "an unquestioned factor in contributing to the improvement in economic activity that occurred thereafter."

On that other side, some are still talking about hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts for the wealthiest. President Clinton has proven that responsible deficit reduction that maintains our investments in research and development, in our cities, our kids, our schools, and infrastructure can work.

I do not believe the American people want a return to the pie-in-the-sky promises that built up this deficit in the first place. Today's jobs report is another indication that the President's economic plan is working.

The question the American people are facing is do we stay the course, or do we go back to the budget-busting policies of the 1980's. I, for one, truly believe the American people are beyond being fooled by false promises. Yes, there is work to be done, but they know we are headed in the right direction.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3754,
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report today. I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their concern about a provision that was of particular concern to me.

This House is obviously undergoing a change in management. As a result, many of our hardworking, loyal, nonlegislative House employees have been through a period of great unrest and unease.

As passed by this House, this bill originally contained language regarding the privatization of certain aspects of the Architect of the Capitol, including the maintenance workers. I am pleased that as a result of the work of the conference, and particularly Mr. SERRANO, that the report before us today now contains language protecting the current employees so that they will not be displaced by an privatization.

The bulk of this work force are older, minority employees who would be hard pressed to find new jobs at this stage in their careers. They have served this institution and its particular needs well. It would have been unfair at this time to proceed with privatization without properly protecting these employees. I am glad that the conference report now contains language providing that important protection.

Furthermore, as the Architect studies further privatization options, which I hope are not proceeded with, I believe it is important that we continue to consider the unique nature of the congressional buildings, the loyalty of the existing work force and the particular needs of our institution. I do not believe all the answers lie in outsourcing these services and will continue to work with the members of the subcommittee and on the House Oversight Committee on which I serve, to ensure fair and reasonable treatment for our hardworking employees.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the members of the conference for their sensitivity to these concerns and look forward to continuing to work with them.

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO SPEAK
OUT ABOUT THE PERSECUTION
OF CHRISTIANS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in many countries of the world today, Christians live in fear. Fear for their lives and fear for their livelihood.

Worldwide persecution and martyrdom of Christians has increased and intensified to such an extent that more Christians have died for their faith in the 20th century than in all prior 19 centuries combined.

In some parts of the world, Christians are forbidden to practice their faith and are victimized by religious apartheid which subjects them to discrimination as well as inhumane and humiliating treatment. In several Islamic countries, converting to Christianity from Islam is punishable by death. In many countries today, Christians are imprisoned, enslaved, tortured, and killed simply because of their faith.

The Government of Sudan is waging a jihad against the Christian southern part of the country, enforcing Sharia—Islamic law—against non-Muslim African Sudanese—torturing, starving, killing, and displacing over 1 million people and enslaving tens of thousands of its women and children. Today in Sudan, a human being can be bought for as little as \$15.

Christians in China have experienced the worst persecution since the pre-Deng period in the 1970's. There are more documented cases of Christians in prison or in some form of detention in China than in any other country. Both Evangelical Protestant house church groups and Roman Catholics have been targeted and named "a principal threat to political stability" by the Central Committee of China's Communist Party. In recent months, in three separate incidents, three Chinese Christian leaders were beaten to death by Chinese authorities simply because of their religious activities.

In Pakistan last year, a 13-year-old boy was forced to flee the country after he was convicted under Pakistan's blasphemy law. His uncle, who was also convicted, was shot dead by someone in the angry mob that swarmed outside the courtroom.

In 1994, three Christians in Iran were kidnapped and murdered during 1994 as part of a crackdown on the Iranian Christian community.

In Vietnam and other countries, Catholic bishops and priests and Protestant pastors are routinely imprisoned, Bibles are confiscated and churches are raided.

There is also severe persecution of Christians in North Korea, Cuba, and some countries in the Middle East.

Leaders of the international Christian community have begun to speak out about this serious and growing problem. Pope John Paul II recently sounded a call against regimes that "practice discrimination against Jews, Christians, and other religious groups, going even so far as to refuse the right to meet in private for prayer," declaring that "this is an intolerable and unjustifiable violation not only of all the norms of current international law, but of the most fundamental human freedom, that of practicing one's faith openly."

The National Association of Evangelicals in January 1996 issued a "Statement of Conscience and Call to Action" subsequently endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention, the executive council of the Episcopal Church, and the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church, United States of America. It pledged to "do what is in our power to the end that the Government of the United States will take appropriate action to combat the intolerable religious persecution now victimizing fellow believers and those of other faiths."

The World Evangelical Fellowship has declared September 29, 1996, and each annual last Sunday in September, as an international day of prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians. That day will be observed by numerous churches and human rights groups around the world.

Mr. Speaker, its time for Congress to speak out. I am introducing a resolution that would condemn the human rights abuses and denials of religious liberty to Christians around the world; strongly recommend that the President expand and reinvigorate United States international advocacy on behalf of persecuted Christians; encourage a reexamination of all U.S. policies that affect persecuted Christians; encourage the President to appoint a White House special adviser on religious persecution; and applauds the actions of the World Evangelical Fellowship in designating an annual day of prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians.

The United States has forcefully taken up the cause of other persecuted religious minorities. During the cold war, we repeatedly passed resolutions condemning the persecution of the Soviet Jews. In recent years, we have passed resolutions condemning the persecution of people of the Baha'i faith.

We have the ability to intervene in a similar manner for persecuted Christians. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important resolution.

H. RES. —

Whereas the worldwide persecution and martyrdom of Christians has increased and intensified to such an extent that more Christians have died for their faith in the 20th century than in all prior 19 centuries combined;

Whereas in many places throughout the world, Christians are restricted in or forbidden from practicing their faith, victimized by a "religious apartheid" that subjects them to inhumane, humiliating treatment, and are imprisoned, tortured, enslaved, and killed;

Whereas in some countries proselytism is forbidden, and extremist elements persist unchecked by the government in their campaigns to eradicate Christians and force conversions through intimidation, rape, and forced marriage;

Whereas in several Islamic countries conversion to Christianity from Islam is a crime punishable by death;

Whereas the militant Muslim Government of Sudan is waging a jihad (religious war) against the Christian southern part of the country, enforcing Shari'a (Islamic law) against non-Muslim African Sudanese, torturing, starving, killing, and displacing over 1,000,000 people, and enslaving tens of thousands of women and children. Today in Sudan, a human being can be bought for as little as \$15;

Whereas Christians in China have experienced the worst persecution since the pre-Deng period in the 1970s. There are more documented cases of Christians in prison or in

some form of detention in China than in any other country. Both Evangelical Protestant house church groups and Roman Catholics have been targeted and named "a principal threat to political stability" by the Central Committee of China's Communist party. In recent months, in separate incidents 3 Chinese Christian leaders were beaten to death by Chinese authorities simply for their religious activities;

Whereas an Islamic court in Kuwait has denied religious liberty to a convert from Islam to Christianity, and the judge recommended that he be put to death;

Whereas 3 Christian leaders in Iran were kidnapped and murdered during 1994 as part of a crackdown on the Iranian Christian community;

Whereas severe persecution of Christians is also occurring in North Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, and certain countries in the Middle East, to name merely a few;

Whereas religious liberty is a universal right explicitly recognized in numerous international agreements, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Whereas Pope John Paul II recently sounded a call against regimes that "practice discrimination against Jews, Christians, and other religious groups, going even so far as to refuse them the right to meet in private for prayer," declaring that "this is an intolerable and unjustifiable violation not only of all the norms of current international law, but of the most fundamental human freedom, that of practicing one's faith openly," stating that this is for human beings "their reason for living";

Whereas the National Association of Evangelicals in January 1996 issued a "Statement of Conscience and Call to Action," subsequently commended or endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, United States of America. They pledged to end their "silence in the face of the suffering of all those persecuted for their religious faith" and "to do what is in our power to the end that the Government of the United States will take appropriate action to combat the intolerable religious persecution now victimizing fellow believers and those of other faiths";

Whereas the World Evangelical Fellowship has declared September 29, 1996, and each annual last Sunday in September, as an international day of prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians. That day will be observed by numerous churches and human rights groups around the world;

Whereas the United States of America since its founding has been a harbor of refuge and freedom to worship for believers from John Winthrop to Roger Williams to William Penn, and a haven for the oppressed, and has guaranteed freedom of worship in this country for people of all faiths;

Whereas, unfortunately, the United States has in many instances failed to raise forcefully the issue of anti-Christian and other religious persecution and international conventions and in bilateral relations with offending countries; and

Whereas, however, in the past the United States has forcefully taken up the cause of other persecuted religious minorities, and the United States has the ability to intervene in a similar manner for persecuted Christians throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) unequivocally condemns the egregious human rights abuses and denials of religious liberty to Christians around the world, and

calls upon the responsible regimes to cease such abuses;

(2) strongly recommends that the President expand and invigorate United States international advocacy on behalf of persecuted Christians, and initiate a thorough examination of all United States policies that affect persecuted Christians;

(3) encourages the President to proceed as expeditiously as possible in appointing a White House special advisor on religious persecution; and

(4) applauds the actions of the World Evangelical Fellowship in declaring an annual international day of prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians.

GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, when the House debated budget reconciliation last October, I submitted a statement for the RECORD in support of the provisions in the bill to reauthorize the generalized system of preferences [GSP] duty-free import program. Today, the House will again debate this issue as part of a larger bill to raise the minimum wage. I would like to again reaffirm my support for the reauthorization of the GSP Program. This program was designed as a way to help less developed nations export into the U.S. market. The GSP Program allows duty-free imports of certain products into the United States from over 100 GSP-eligible countries. The bill wisely provides that import-sensitive products are not to be subject to GSP treatment. Ceramic tile is a clear example of an import-sensitive product and is exactly the type of product which should not be subject to lower tariffs under the GSP Program.

Imports have dominated the U.S. ceramic tile market for the last decade and they currently capture nearly 60 percent of the market. This extraordinary level of import penetration is a result, in part, of over 30 years of documented unfair predatory foreign trade practices including dumping, subsidies, Customs fraud, import diversion, and abuse of a loophole in the GSP. The American ceramic tile industry, though relatively small, is efficient and competitive at normal tariff levels.

From its inception in the Trade Act of 1974, the GSP Program has provided for the exemption of "articles which the President determines to be import-sensitive." In light of the history of unfair trade in ceramic tile and the significant and growing import participation in the U.S. ceramic tile market, the U.S. industry has been recognized by successive Congresses and administrations as import sensitive, dating back to the Dillion and Kennedy rounds of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT]. During this period the American ceramic tile also has been forced to defend itself from over a dozen petitions filed by various designed GSP-eligible counties seeking duty-free treatment for ceramic tile into this market. If just one petitioning nation succeeds in gaining GSP benefits for ceramic tile, then by law, every GSP beneficiary country is also entitled to GSP duty-free benefits for ceramic tile. If any of these petitions were granted, it would eliminate American tile jobs and could destroy the industry.

A major guiding principle of the GSP Program has been reciprocal market access. Current GSP eligible beneficiary countries supply almost one-third of the U.S. ceramic tile imports and they are increasing their sales and market shares. U.S. ceramic tile manufacturers, however, are still denied access to many of these foreign markets. Many developing counties maintain exclusionary tariff and non-tariff mechanisms which serve to block the entry of U.S. ceramic tile exports into these markets. Industrial countries, including the European Union [EU], may use less transparent methods such as discriminatory product standards and testing methods to control their ceramic tile imports and, in some cases, to divert ceramic tile manufactured in third countries over to the U.S. market by imposing restrictions on those third-country exports to the EU.

I am in support of the reauthorization of the GSP Program and trust that import-sensitive products such as tile will not be subject to GSP.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, August 1, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 379 and 380.

Had I been here, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall 379 and "yea" on rollcall 380.

PITTSBURGH'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE 1996 OLYMPICS

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the contribution that one of my constituents, Mr. Peter Calaboyias, has made to the 1996 Centennial Olympic games in Atlanta.

Mr. Calaboyias, a resident of the Shadyside neighborhood in Pittsburgh, created the sculpture "Tribute" that adorns Centennial Park in Atlanta. Mr. Calaboyias, who is also an art instructor at Grove City College, is a very talented sculptor. He has spent years designing and creating this beautiful bronze sculpture, which features three Olympic athletes.

In this work, Calaboyias has highlighted the unchanging spirit of the Olympic games over the last 2,700 years by incorporating three separate athletes—one from ancient Greece, one from the first modern Olympic games in 1896, and one representing the present and future games—into his composition. The modern figure, incidentally, is a woman—to reflect the changing nature of the games as well as the values they share in common.

This outstanding sculpture is located in Centennial Plaza, the emotional focal point of the Olympic games. Consequently, it will be seen by millions of visitors—and by millions of television viewers—in the course of the games. After the games are over, "Tribute" will remain as a lasting reminder of the glory and human drama of the Centennial Olympics.

Mr. Speaker, this statue is a fitting tribute to the spirit of the Olympic games, and to the determination, skill, and camaraderie of the athletes who have competed in the Olympics over the millennia. I am honored that one of my constituents has made such an outstanding contribution to the Centennial Olympic games in Atlanta. I want to recognize Peter Calaboyias today on the House floor and commend him for creating this remarkable work of art.

**BILL TO AMEND THE RESOURCE
CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY
ACT**

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of a bill I'm introducing to toughen Federal laws regulating hazardous waste facilities. Hazardous waste treatment and disposal is regulated by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [RCRA]. Since RCRA was enacted in 1976, we have made dramatic progress in improving oversight of hazardous waste through a flexible regulatory structure in which States have the primary role in enforcing the statute. The bill I introduce today takes three simple, but powerful, further steps to assist State environmental agencies in protecting the environment from hazardous wastes.

First, the bill requires the Administrator of the EPA to certify that authorized State RCRA programs include standards for the siting of hazardous waste facilities. Currently, a number of States have no regular standards which guard against the placement of hazardous waste facilities in environmentally sensitive or unstable areas. These States operate on an ad hoc basis when making permitting decisions. But the ad hoc approach has two weaknesses. The public is left with little to no information to judge whether a particular site represents a true danger to public health, and business is left with little certainty as to which sites are likely to garner approval. Standards which preclude siting in places like flood plains, karst terrain, or over important aquifers will clear up this confusion for both parties. And the bill allows each State the flexibility to tailor standards to its own needs and conditions.

Second, it authorizes the States to fund their RCRA programs through permit fees, and requires the EPA to determine for each State the cost of fully maintaining its program. In many States, taxpayers are funding RCRA programs from general revenues. Not only is this unfair, since the burden of supporting oversight functions properly belongs to those who treat and dispose of the waste, but it often leads to underfunding of State programs. This bill provides every State the opportunity and the ability to recover these costs through permits fees in accordance with the polluter pays principle.

Third, the bill corrects the problem that owners of hazardous waste facilities who are currently violating State or Federal environmental laws are still legally eligible to receive and do receive new operating permits. The third part of my bill, called a good-guy provision, pre-

vents any company which is violating State or Federal environmental laws from obtaining a permit for a hazardous waste facility. This provision provides a strong incentive for operators to obey laws designed to protect public safety and minimize environmental risks.

I have a particular interest in ensuring that hazardous waste facilities are safe because my congressional district is adjacent to a hazardous waste landfill in Sumter County, SC—the second largest hazardous waste landfill in the Southeast, and my district formerly hosted a hazardous waste incinerator in Rock Hill, SC, which is now a reprocessing facility. Both have experienced problems, and I believe facilities of this kind would benefit from stricter Federal laws. I know the general public would benefit. Similar situations exist in almost every congressional district in the country. That's why this legislation is appropriate and deserves the support of the entire Congress.

I believe this bill represents modest but important change in environmental law. Hazardous waste facilities will continue to pose a danger to our health and the environment, but this legislation can help minimize that risk.

**ABANDONED AND DERELICT
VESSEL REMOVAL ACT OF 1996**

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Act of 1996. This act will provide the necessary tools to encourage the cleanup of a long-term public nuisance resulting from abandoned boats and barges found in the navigable waters of many communities in this country.

This issue centers on dozens of abandoned boats and other debris which has accumulated along the Guadalupe Channel, which surrounds the community of Alviso, CA. This concern was first brought to my attention by members of the San Jose City Council, the Alviso Master Plan Task Force and, most important, members of the Alviso community. These abandoned vessels have become a public health and safety hazard to both the community as well as to those that use the adjacent public waterways. Unfortunately, Alviso is far from the only community that suffers from this problem.

The Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Act also make sense economically. Abandoned vessels do not just sit harmlessly by—these vessels are often used as an illegal dumping ground for hazardous materials. Cleaning up this mess is both expensive, time consuming, and places the health of the community in jeopardy. Between January 1988 and September 1991, the Federal Government spent \$5.2 million to remove 282 abandoned vessels that blocked waterways. In that same time, Government spent nearly \$5.7 million to clean up pollutants from just 96 abandoned vessels. This legislation would cut cleanup costs to the Government by more than 300 percent.

This legislation will establish clear authority to remove vessels left unattended in a public waterway that has not been designated as a harbor or marina for more than 45 days or

those left unattended in an approved harbor or marina for more than 60 days. There are approximately 17 million recreational boaters using public waterways nationwide. It is estimated that this number will increase, on average, 4 percent per year. Given this substantial increase in waterway users, regulation becomes necessary.

This legislation empowers local authorities to keep public waterways clear while allowing boat or barge owners the opportunity to repair and remove vessels that are not actually abandoned. In addition, the removal of these derelict vessels will alleviate concerns regarding water quality and its impact on the public health of the local community.

This legislation will promote cooperation between interested local citizens, community groups, and government agencies in their joint efforts to preserve and protect the navigable waters of the United States, and it will return the power to take action to the communities and force boat owners to take responsibility for their vessels. A community could instigate action simply by petitioning a local elected official to notify the Secretary of the Army of the problem. Proceedings to notify the boat owner, and ultimately to remove the boat, would then be taken by the Secretary.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) **ABANDON.**—The term "abandon" means to moor, strand, wreck, sink, or leave a vessel unattended for longer than 45 days.

(2) **NAVIGABLE WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES.**—The term "navigable waters of the United States" means waters of the United States, including the territorial sea.

(3) **REMOVAL; REMOVE.**—The term "removal" or "remove" means relocation, sale, scrapping, or other method of disposal.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Army.

(5) **VESSEL.**—The term "vessel" includes recreational, commercial, and government-owned vessels but does not include vessels operated by the Coast Guard or the Navy.

(6) **VESSEL REMOVAL CONTRACTOR.**—The term "vessel removal contractor" means a person that enters into a contract with the United States to remove an abandoned vessel under this Act.

SEC. 3. ABANDONMENT OF VESSEL PROHIBITED.

An owner or operator of a vessel may not abandon it on the navigable waters of the United States. A vessel is deemed not to be abandoned if—

(1) it is located at a federally or State-approved mooring area;

(2) it is on private property with the permission of the owner of the property; or

(3) the owner or operator notifies the Secretary that the vessel is not abandoned and the location of the vessel.

SEC. 4. PENALTY FOR UNLAWFUL ABANDONMENT OF VESSEL.

Thirty days after the notification procedures under section 5(a)(1) are completed, the Secretary may assess a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for each day of the violation against an owner or operator that violates section 3. A vessel with respect to which a penalty is assessed under this Act is liable in rem for the penalty.

SEC. 5. REMOVAL OF ABANDONED VESSELS.

(a) PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, may remove a vessel that is abandoned if—

(A) an elected official of a local government has notified the Secretary of the vessel and requested that the Secretary remove the vessel; and

(B) the Secretary has provided notice to the owner or operator—

(i) that if the vessel is not removed it will be removed at the owner or operator's expense; and

(ii) of the penalty under section 4.

(2) FORM OF NOTICE.—The notice to be provided to an owner or operator under paragraph (1)(B) shall be—

(A) if the identity of the owner or operator can be determined, via certified mail; and

(B) if the identity of the owner or operator cannot be determined, via an announcement in a notice to mariners and in an official journal of the county (or other equivalent political subdivision) in which the vessel is located.

(3) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY OF UNITED STATES.—The United States, and any officer or employee of the United States is not liable to an owner or operator for damages resulting from removal of an abandoned vessel under this Act.

(b) LIABILITY OF OWNER OR OPERATOR.—The owner or operator of an abandoned vessel is liable, and an abandoned vessel is liable in rem, for all expenses that the United States incurs in removing the abandoned vessel under this Act.

(c) CONTRACTING OUT.—

(1) SOLICITATION OF BIDS.—The Secretary may, after providing notice under subsection (a)(1), solicit by public advertisement sealed bids for the removal of an abandoned vessel.

(2) CONTRACT.—After solicitation under paragraph (1) the Secretary may award a contract. The contract—

(A) may be subject to the condition that the vessel and all property on the vessel is the property of the vessel removal contractor; and

(B) must require the vessel removal contractor to submit to the Secretary a plan for the removal.

(3) COMMENCEMENT DATE FOR REMOVAL.—Removal of an abandoned vessel may begin 30 days after the Secretary completes the procedures under subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 6. LIABILITY OF VESSEL REMOVAL CONTRACTORS.

A vessel removal contractor and its subcontractor are not liable for damages that result from actions taken or omitted to be taken in the course of removing a vessel under this Act. This section does not apply—

(1) with respect to personal injury or wrongful death; or

(2) if the contractor or subcontractor is grossly negligent or engages in willful misconduct.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1996. Such funds shall remain available until expended.

**CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3230,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997**

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT S. WALKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, the Defense Authorization bill agreed to by conferees is a solid piece of legislation, which represents an honest effort to reach compromise among all parties, and I will vote for final passage. Nevertheless, there is one provision in the bill that concerns me, and which I feel obligated to address. There is a section in the bill entitled, "Prohibition of Collection and Release of Detailed Satellite Imagery Relating to Israel," which, from the time of enactment on, will prohibit the United States Government from licensing American commercial remote sensing companies to collect or disseminate imagery of Israel that is more detailed than imagery that is available from other, non-American commercial sources. This provision contradicts bipartisan efforts by Congress and the executive branch since 1984 to promote commercial remote sensing as a leading sector of the American aerospace industry. Ultimately, I believe this provision is bad for both the United States and Israel.

This provision was offered as an amendment to the Senate defense authorization bill without hearings, debate, or any other public discussion. Originally, it was considerably more restrictive, but conferees were able to address some of my specific concerns. Nevertheless, this prohibition remains unnecessary and counterproductive. It sets back our efforts to reinvigorate the U.S. aerospace industry through commercialization, and contradicts traditional American principles such as open skies and freedom of information.

I believe that the sponsors of this provision are concerned with Israeli national security, which is a concern that I share. Israel has always had a special place in American policy and always will. But, this provision does nothing to improve Israeli security. Aircraft flying in international airspace can already image Israel in greater detail than that licensed by commercial satellites, which the United States Government cannot prevent and which this measure does not address.

In the long run, by forcing United States industry to surrender its advantage to foreign entities, this amendment will take control over the shutters of commercial remote sensing satellites out of the hands of the United States Government and place it in the hands of the French, Russians, Chinese, Indians, Brazilians, and any other number of countries that are working on commercial remote sensing satellites. None of these countries is likely to be as sensitive to Israeli security as we are, but this provision will place more power over imaging Israel in their hands. Consequently, this will undermine Israeli security in the long run.

Some might believe that we should accept this measure as a symbol of the United States commitment to Israeli security. Symbols have a place, but not when they do real harm to our national interests, in this case, our interest in promoting commercial space development and U.S. global leadership. The commercial re-

mote sensing industry is in its infancy; like a newborn, it is highly vulnerable to sudden changes in its environment. The simple fact is that business can't flourish if we keep changing the rules, and this provision changes the rules. There are measures in current law, policy, and regulation that enable the U.S. Government to restrict the operations of U.S. commercial remote sensing satellites if needed for U.S. national security, foreign policy, or international obligations. This provision essentially throws that rational process out the window and provides a predetermined answer. Under such capricious Government action, it will become increasingly difficult, if not impossible, for private American firms to raise investment capital, and so the section threatens the entire industry. That's bad for American aerospace workers, who have suffered enormously under defense cuts in the last few years.

The U.S. Government has gone through the process of considering U.S. and allied security interests when it issued nine licenses to U.S. companies for commercial remote sensing as detailed as one meter. None of those licenses places restrictions on imaging Israel. So, the Government has already been through a rational policymaking process which found no interests were served by prohibitions on imaging Israel. Furthermore, this section of the bill only calls on the Government to place possible restrictions on licenses issued in the future, after it becomes law. It does nothing to retroactively affect the United States companies for whom the Government has already issued licenses, and on which the Government placed no restrictions about imaging Israel.

I fear that this provision will constrain U.S. industry in the future and give its competition a commercial advantage. The Wall Street Journal reported in February that organizations owned by the Israeli Government were going to partner with United States firms to offer commercial remote sensing services similar to those offered by American companies. The trade weekly Space News printed an interview with the head of the Israeli Space Agency on July 29 in which he said that the state of Israel was trying to enter the commercial remote sensing market in partnership with Germany and Ukraine. If we believe the head of the Israeli Space Agency, then the result was be a protected market for Israel at the expense of United States aerospace workers and companies.

In general, this provision demonstrates an inadequate understanding of our contemporary times. It seeks to prohibit the creation and distribution of information, which authoritarian governments have tried and failed to do for decades. The genius of our system, and one reason our economy continues to grow, is that Americans believe in the wide exchange of information. In the Information Age, that gives us natural advantages because information naturally spreads. One builds economic strength and protects national security in the information age by winning technological competitions and staying at the forefront of technological change. This section of the bill seeks to prevent that and takes us in the wrong direction. It is a well-meant, but misplaced effort that I hope we will not repeat in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF 50/50 WAIVER FOR THE WELLNESS PLAN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues from Michigan in sponsoring legislation which will provide an opportunity for The Wellness Plan, a well-established HMO headquartered in Detroit, to enroll Medicare beneficiaries. This plan inadvertently has been frozen out of enrolling Medicare beneficiaries since January 1996 through a health care prepayment plan contract because of a technical change in the Social Security and Technical Corrections Act of 1994.

State-licensed as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit HMO since 1975, and federally qualified since 1979, The Wellness Plan has been recognized as a model quality Medicaid managed care plan by national leaders, including President Bush and two former secretaries of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Wellness Plan is a model of the type of HMO into which our Government would like Medicare beneficiaries enrolled because it has a proven record with both the Medicaid and Medicare Programs. I urge that the House leadership advance this bill in this Congress so that we do not delay any further the enrollment beneficiaries into this plan.

THE GAMES WOMEN WIN

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have been watching the 1996 Summer Olympics with a great deal of pride and admiration. I might even say that I have swelled with pride at the marvelous athletic ability demonstrated by all the athletes from the United States. I have almost burst with pride for the women athletes who have risen to the rolls of honor among athletes. We are a little over halfway through the events for these 1996 Summer Olympics and I would like to read the names of the medal-winning women athletes representing the United States through July 30, 1996:

Angel Martino, 2 bronzes; Allison Wagner, silver; Amanda Beard, 2 silvers; Beth Botsford, gold; Whitney Hedgepeth, 2 silvers; Kim Rhode, 2 golds; Amy Van Dyken, 2 golds; Brooke Bennett, gold; Dana Chladek, silver; Mary Ellen Clark, bronze; Gail Devers, gold; Gwen Torrence, bronze; Amy Chow, silver; Shannon Miller, gold; and Dominique Dawes, bronze.

U.S. women's team—swimming: 400-meter freestyle relay, gold; 400-meter medley relay, gold; and 800-meter freestyle relay, gold.

U.S. women's gymnastics team, gold.

U.S. equestrian team—women: Team 3-day event, silver.

Team dressage, bronze.

U.S. women's rowing team—four without coxswain, silver.

Lightweight double sculls, silver.

These medal winners are representative of the women athletes that make up 42.4 percent

of the U.S. competitors at the 1996 Summer Olympics. Imagine 42.4 percent, almost as many women as men competing in the Olympics on U.S. soil. Many of us know that there were fewer events available in which women could participate during most of Olympic history. In fact, until the passage of title IX in 1972, there were fewer women athletes to compete. These 1996 Summer Olympics are a tribute to all the dreams, sweat, and tears of all athletes, their parents, partners, and coaches. I stand today to honor all that these medals represent.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 123) to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States:

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my strong opposition to H.R. 123, the English Language Empowerment Act. I am deeply concerned with the impact that this bill would have on the cultural fabric of our Nation.

Mr. Chairman, this bill contains provisions which would not only require Federal documents to be written in English only, but also repeals the current requirement that bilingual ballots be provided in areas with large numbers of non-English-speaking voters. By including this provision, my Republican colleagues are making blatant intrusion into the constitutionally given right to vote.

Mr. Chairman, the proceedings of our legislatures, our courts, our city councils, and the majority of our day-to-day business is conducted in English. Therefore the value of fluency in English is indisputable. Both immigrants and nonimmigrants alike acknowledge the importance of learning the English language. The long waiting lists for English classes at community colleges and adult schools are a testament to this.

Mr. Chairman, instead of isolating immigrants and impeding their integration into society by declaring English as a official language, we should devote our efforts to teaching people English in order for them to become fully participatory members of society. Unfortunately, this bill does nothing to improve immigrants' ability to be educated in the English language. In fact, as Congress pushes to pass this law, it also has slashed essential funding for bilingual education.

Mr. Chairman, the United States has always been a nation which is rich in its blend of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. This bill which seeks to mandate English as an official language misrepresents our Nation's multicultural history by implying that this Nation has always been unilingual in character. Moreover, this legislation fails to recognize the varied needs of our changing population.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 123 and support giving immigrants the freedom to communicate in their native language.

RESTORING FAIRNESS TO BARLEY PRODUCERS

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce necessary legislation to correct a grave error in the 1996 farm bill. The bill I am introducing today will make good on the promises made to barley producers during the farm bill debate earlier this year. North Dakota barley growers were promised a transition payment of 46 cents per bushel under the production flexibility contracts. From November until April this estimate stood as the payment barley producers expected from participation in the new program. Many made financial and planting plans based on this figure.

Once the new farm bill was signed into law, however, barley producers discovered an error had been made in estimating the payments. Barley producers found they would now be eligible for a 32-cent payment, over a 30-percent decrease from the promised amount, and a much steeper decrease from the estimates promised to producers of other commodities. In my State of North Dakota, the Nation's leading barley producing State, this error will cost farmers \$13 million. Nationwide, this error amounts to over \$30 million in lost income to barley producers.

The bill I am introducing today along with Representatives JOHNSON of South Dakota and WILLIAMS of Montana will increase the amount allotted for barley contract payments by \$35 million. This is the amount necessary to fulfill the promises made and restore equity to barley producers. We do not reduce the amounts available to other commodities through this action. We only increase the amount available to our Nation's barley putting them on even footing with their counterparts who grow other commodities.

The new farm bill promised 7 years of payments in exchange for the elimination of the historical safety net. We are beginning to find out now what those promises were worth. I urge my colleagues to support this measure which forces Congress to make good on its promises to the American barley grower.

EXPLOSIVES FINGERPRINTING ACT

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my sadness and outrage over the bombing at the Centennial Park in Atlanta. My thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of those injured or killed in the blast.

Living in fear of random acts of terrorism is relatively new for Americans, but sadly, it has become a reality. After a series of terrorist attacks, we can no longer presume our safety is guaranteed.

Mr. Speaker, while comprehensive terrorism legislation has passed Congress and been signed into law by President Clinton, we must take additional steps to prevent future terrorist acts from occurring. In 1993, I introduced the

Explosives Fingerprinting Act in response to the World Trade Center bombing. This bill would require that explosive manufacturers introduce high-technology additives into explosives that will give them identifying "signatures" which would tell our law enforcement officials when and where they were made. President Clinton has expressed his support for the use of these chemical taggants in explosive material.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are being murdered. Our citizenry is at risk. We must not let the gun lobby or any other special interest groups deny our law enforcement agents powerful antiterrorism tools.

[From the Daily News, July 30, 1996]

TRACING GUNPOWDER BOMBS WITH GOP POLS
(By Jim Dwyer)

You may not realize the sacred status of the black gunpowder that was stuffed into pipes and exploded in front of the world this weekend. But black powder is holy stuff, by decree of Congress.

Even though it is possible to put chemical "tags" into black powder so it can be traced back to the seller, it is against the law for the government to even study using those tags.

That makes the average pipe bomb into an American sacrament.

And if you thought one bomb in Atlanta might change that, check out yesterday's White House meeting on terrorism.

Minutes after the TV cameras were turned off, it became clear that the Republican leadership—Newt Gingrich, Trent Lott and elder statesman Orrin Hatch—would not yield an inch on tags for black powder, a source at the meeting said.

I have to go back to the members who didn't want tags before, said Gingrich, who lives in Georgia, home of the world's most famous pipe bomb.

The tags may not be safe, said Lott, the Senate majority leader.

Meanwhile, Hatch, from Utah but apparently lost in space, thought the key to stopping terrorism was not tracing explosives, but cutting back a defendant's right to an attorney during questioning.

Here are the facts.

For nearly two decades, it has been possible to place tiny chemical tags, known as taggants, into explosive materials as they are being manufactured. The tags are like the lot numbers on a package of aspirin. They show the name of the company that made them, and what batch they came from.

The chemical tags are not destroyed by the explosion, so investigators could use them to trace the bomb material to the place where it was sold.

A few months ago, a major anti-terrorism law was passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton. It included money to study the chemical tags used in identifying some explosives—like TNT and plastic.

But the far right of the Republican Party flat-out refused to permit the study of tagging black powder. Why? The National Rifle Association is absolutely opposed to tagging black powder because it is used by sports shooters to pack their own shotgun shells. For the NRA, tagging powder is a half-step away from bullet control, and then we would hurtle down the slippery slope to more gun control.

The NRA has a freshman congressman named Robert Barr of Georgia to defend it on every issue.

For months, Barr wrestled with Henry Hyde, a veteran and very conservative Republican congressman, on the issue of tags. At one point, Hyde blurted out that tags were being blocked by "arch-conservatives

... who seemed insensitive to the advances [of terrorists] and are unwilling to let our law enforcement people catch up to them.

"I want my party to be the party of law and order, as it always has been, and not the party of the militias."

In the end, Hyde was defeated on a study of tags for black powder.

Right now, black powder is the explosive material in more than half of the bombs investigated by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. So refusing even to study tags for black powder is a big victory for dangerous psychos. But it is also a win for the militia-type extremists who view ATF agents as jackbooted thugs bent on destroying the constitutional right to bear arms.

In the last hours of the debate on the terrorism bill, Rep. Charles Schumer, a Brooklyn Democrat, was able to include language that permitted a study of tagging other explosives—like dynamite and plastics.

The Republicans went along with the idea of a study, as long as it excluded black powder—although they provided a total of zero (\$00.00) dollars for the study in the federal budget.

Yesterday, the NRA and the Republican leadership stuck with their line that tags in black powder might make them unsafe. "We do not believe you're going to achieve public safety by introducing a safety hazard into millions of U.S. homes," said NRA spokesman Tom Wyld.

"There isn't a reliable piece of evidence that shows the taggants are unsafe," said Richard Livesay, their inventor.

"If the tags aren't safe, a study will show that," said Schumer. "But when the right-wing rabid forces don't want something in, this Congress just bows and scrapes and goes along."

This is not only catching bomb nuts—it's about making it just a little more difficult for them.

"If taggants applied to black powder, it would have been a real deterrent to those who set off this pipe bomb in Atlanta," said Schumer.

[From the Wall Street Journal, July 31, 1996]

TRACING EXPLOSIVES THROUGH TAGGANTS
DRAWS HEAVY FIRE FROM GUN LOBBIES

(By John J. Fialka)

WASHINGTON.—The nation's gun lobbies are blazing away at one of President Clinton's new antiterrorist proposals—to put tiny plastic markers called taggants in explosives and gunpowder.

Taggants are color-coded identifiers that allow authorities to trace explosives back to the retailer, which could ultimately lead to the buyer. Originally developed in the U.S., taggants have been used for 11 years in Switzerland. According to Microtrace Inc. of Minneapolis, Minn., which manufactures them, Swiss police have used the microscopic markers to trace the source of explosives in more than 500 cases of bombing or illegal possession of explosives.

The gun lobbies, however, consider taggants an invasion of privacy as well as a potential safety hazard.

"We need to be registering politicians, not citizens," asserts Larry Pratt, executive director of 150,000-member Gun Owners of America. He claims the use of the markers is a hidden form of gun registration that won't thwart terrorists.

"I don't believe you achieve safety by introducing hazards into the homes of millions of Americans," argues Tom Wyld, a spokesman for the National Rifle Association, which claims three million members.

The gun owners' chief concern is putting taggants into two types of gunpowder,

smokeless and black powder, which are used by some three million hunters and marksmen who buy powder in bulk to load their own ammunition. There are also a small group of hunters and war re-enactors who use black powder in antique rifles. As in last weekend's terrorist incident at the Olympics in Atlanta, which killed one person and injured more than a hundred, gunpowder can also be used to make crude pipe bombs.

According to Mr. Wyld of the NRA powder containing the taggants could cause a "catastrophic failure" in some guns, causing bullets not to explode properly. But Charles Faulkner, general counsel of privately held Microtrace, said: "We don't know of any case where a premature explosion was caused by taggants."

The NRA, one of the strongest and most free-spending lobbies in Congress, wants an independent study of taggants before any commitment is made. Taggants have been under consideration since the late 1970s.

On Monday, President Clinton proposed a \$25 million, six-month Treasury Department study of the taggants, which are designed to survive an explosion. If found to be safe, the Treasury would order manufacturers to put them in all explosives, including black and smokeless powder. Mr. Clinton said yesterday, however, that if lawmakers can't agree on the taggant issue, he would be willing to put it aside for now.

Taggants, which are also opposed by the Institute of Makers of Explosives, were tested by Congress' former Office of Technology Assessment in 1980 and found to be "compatible" with most explosives. The OTA, however, found they could cause "increased reactivity" with at least one form of smokeless powder.

The markers were also studied by Aerospace Corp., an Air Force-funded research company, which found they caused no hazard to explosives or gunpowder. Referring to the explosive manufacturers' opposition, Gerald H. Fuller, a physicist who worked on the Aerospace study, called it "pure bunk, pure smoke screen." He asserted that the real reason companies that make and use explosives oppose taggants is the legal liability they could incur if explosives are traced back to them.

"If their products are stolen and used in bombings and can be traced back, they're going to be subject to lawsuits, and this bugs them," he said.

J. Christopher Ronay, president of the Institute of Makers of Explosives, couldn't be reached for comment. Mr. Ronay, who formerly headed the Federal Bureau of Investigation's bomb laboratory, has claimed that the industry is opposed to the addition of taggants because it will drive up manufacturing costs and amount to a "hidden tax" of \$700 million a year on the products of mining and quarrying industries—the primary users of explosives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I request that you please record my vote for final passage of H.R. 123, during the markup of the Language of Government Act on Wednesday, July 24, 1996. I was unavoidably detained at a prior commitment, and when I returned, the final vote had been taken.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on final passage.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT FOERSTER
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Robert Y. Foerster, an outstanding individual and a fine soldier, who is entering civilian life after a distinguished career in the United States Air Force.

Since August of 1990, Robert Foerster has served as Director of Admissions for the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Robert has worked tirelessly assisting candidates and their families as well as Congressional staff members to work within the USAFA Admissions process to identify, nominate and offer appointments to a select few of the best and the brightest of our high school seniors.

Robert Foerster is a Baltimore native. Robert graduated from University Military School in Mobile, AL in 1960 and after one year at Michigan State, entered the U.S. Air Force Academy. Upon graduation from the Academy, he was commissioned a second lieutenant and entered pilot training in Texas. Colonel Foerster earned a master's degree in business administration from Inter American University, Puerto Rico, in 1971. He attended Squadron Officer School in 1972, the Naval College of Command and Staff in 1976, and the National War College in 1980.

Robert Foerster has received numerous military decorations, including the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters, and Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Foerster's distinguished military service is a model of patriotism and citizenship. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Robert, his wife Sheila, his daughters Janet, Leslie, Katrina and his son Mark well as the Foerster family begins this new chapter in their lives.

May they fully enjoy the blessings of peace and freedom that Robert Foerster has so ably defended as an officer in the United States Air Force.

SALUTE TO GIRL SCOUT CHRISTY
WILEY

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award by Foothills Girl Scout Council in Utica, New York. She is Christy Willey of Girl Scout Troop 429. She is being honored on August 1, 1996 for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The award can be earned by a girl aged 14–17, or in grades 9–12.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, as well as design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of Foothills Girl Scout Council, Christy began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in 1994. She completed her project in the areas of Adapted Aquatics and Water Safety, and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

MAHARISHI UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT
CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM LIGHTFOOT

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, this year the Maharishi University of Management in Fairfield, IA, is celebrating its Silver Jubilee. The University was founded in 1971 by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi as Maharishi International University. In 1995, the original name was changed to Maharishi University of Management "to emphasize the importance of students' gaining the complete knowledge and experience of how to successfully manage all areas of life, both personal and professional." I congratulate the university on this milestone and as requested ask that the following be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Maharishi University of Management was granted bachelor's and master's accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCACS) in 1980, and doctoral accreditation in 1982. Now, in its Silver Jubilee Year, the University is establishing itself as a truly global institution.

The rigorous and innovative curriculum offers academic excellence, development of consciousness and creativity, and a high quality of life, preparing students from all over the world to be leaders of their professions and their nations—competent to manage any challenge and to create a prosperous, progressive and peaceful world.

The research of its distinguished faculty has gained international recognition; faculty publish or present over 100 papers a year, many in prestigious referred journals. The University and faculty have received over 155 grants and contact totaling \$18.3 million since 1977 from federal, state, and private sources, supporting research, development of new academic programs and infrastructure, endowment, and fellowships.

Graduates are enjoying successful careers in business, education, law, high technology, the health care professions, the arts, and the sciences. Of its 2,888 graduates, alumni have been accepted by over 130 graduate and professional schools, and have been hired by many leading corporations and institutions, or have become entrepreneurs founding their

own highly successful companies. Many have established businesses in Iowa, contributing to the economic development of the state. Alumni are achieving a level of success higher than national norms as measured by their salaries.

Students achieve high scores on national examinations, and awards and prizes in competitions in art, literature, computer science, writing, management, and mathematics. The University's internship programs give students practical, professional training as part of their academic studies.

Consciousness Based Approach to Education. While students excel in a full range of traditional academic disciplines, they also develop their consciousness and unfold their full creative potential through systematic programs including the Maharishi Transcendental Meditation® and TM-Sidhi® program, including Yogic Flying. Research finds that, as a result of this unique educational system, students grow in intelligence, orderliness in brain functioning, self-development and creativity. Their physical and mental health improves, and they display high moral development.

One of Maharishi University of Management's greatest and ongoing achievements is to create a measurable influence of coherence, harmony and peace for the U.S. and the world, through Maharishi's technologies of consciousness. The University is the world's leading center of research on this phenomenon, which is known as the Maharishi Effect.

The University has pioneered in the development, application, and research on prevention-oriented health approaches for maintaining good physical and mental health throughout life.

Hundreds of students in India are currently enrolling in the University's distance education MBA programs, via videotaped courses, telephone conferencing, and the Internet.

Students at Maharishi School of the Age of Enlightenment, Maharishi University of Management's successful primary and secondary school, have won many Iowa state championships and awards in drama, history, science, creativity, spelling, and tennis; the school's classes characteristically score in the 95th percentile and above on standardized tests.

Since 1974, the Maharishi University of Management has been fortunate to find a home in the City of Fairfield, IA, a community rich in the natural beauty, dynamism, and good-heartedness typical of America's heartland. People from all over the world have been drawn to Fairfield because of the University's academic excellence, quality of life, and unique programs for the development of consciousness. The University has promoted very fruitful partnerships for progress in the community, working with the Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the Fairfield Economic Development Association to attract and develop new businesses in the area, especially in high tech areas such as computer software and communications. Maharishi University of Management has contributed greatly to this vital and growing community, which the Honorable Terry Branstad, Governor of Iowa, has called the "economic superstar of Iowa."

It is evident by the above that the faculty, students, alumni, and community are proud of their contribution to our State, Nation, and world. I hope all will join me in offering warmest congratulations to Maharishi University of Management and to its founder, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, on its upcoming Silver Jubilee celebration on September 12, 1996.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3103,
HEALTH INSURANCE PORT-
ABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this health insurance reform conference report. I am pleased that Congress has put aside partisan politics and found agreement on these commonsense steps that will help millions of people to buy and keep health insurance.

This legislation is exactly the kind of assistance the American people want and need from Congress to address the challenges they face in their daily lives.

It will help employees who change or lose jobs to continue to buy health insurance for themselves and their families. It will help people with preexisting health conditions—those are most likely to need health care—to buy insurance. It will help self-employed people to buy health insurance by increasing the tax deduction for the self-employed from 30 to 80 percent. And it will help senior citizens and others needing long-term care to afford these very expensive services by providing necessary tax relief.

These modest reforms will give peace of mind to millions of families without imposing new costs on businesses and government and without adding to the bureaucracy. This is an example of what Congress can do when we put common sense and the public interest first.

As a sponsor of the Democratic version of this legislation, I am pleased that the conference agreement closely reflects the priorities that we offered earlier this year. It focuses on reforms that do have broad, bipartisan support and that will make an immediate, positive difference for millions of people and it takes a responsible, slower approach to testing new approaches such as medical savings accounts. I applaud those who developed the compromise on MSA's and their willingness not to let this controversy hold up other provisions in this legislation.

I want to highlight several provisions of this conference report.

This conference report will increase the tax deduction for the health insurance for the self-employed from 30 to 80 percent, a critical provision in the Democratic substitute that affords the same treatment to the self-employed as we do to corporations. For many self-employed people, this tax deduction will make health insurance more affordable and cost-effective.

The conference report prohibits discrimination against people with preexisting health conditions and guarantees that workers can keep their health insurance if they change or lose their jobs. No longer will Americans fear losing their insurance due to a medical condition such as diabetes or breast cancer. Health insurance companies would be prohibited from excluding coverage of a preexisting condition for more than 12 months. This 12-month period would be reduced by the time period for which the individual was covered under a previous group-based plan. For individuals who

lose their jobs, health insurance companies would be required to offer the choice of two plans. To protect individuals, these plans would have to be priced at a level similar to other popular individual plans.

This conference agreement requires the renewal of health insurance coverage for those Americans who pay their premiums. This consumer protection will ensure that families can continue to keep their health insurance as long as they continue to pay premiums for this coverage.

This conference report also provides new incentives for Americans to provide for their long-term care. With the average cost of \$40,000 per person for long-term care services, it is critical that we provide relief for American families. This legislation allows taxpayers to deduct qualified long-term care expenses, including premiums for long-term-care insurance, as an itemized medical deduction. This legislation also permits terminally ill and chronically ill patients to receive their life insurance benefits prior to death without paying taxes on such benefits. Both of the tax provisions should help American families to deal with the costs of medical treatments.

The conference legislation includes provisions to discourage fraud. I strongly believe we should not tolerate fraud and abuse in our medical system. This section ensures that medical professionals who commit fraud will be prosecuted for these acts, without imposing unnecessary burdens on medical providers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge approval of this commonsense, bipartisan, and long-overdue legislation.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 123) to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States:

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, the Gingrich Republicans have now apparently adopted the carrot and the stick concept of legislative strategy and behavior. The Gingrich Republicans would rather wield the stick at people who are different and punish them because they are non-English speaking. The stick: read like me, talk like me, or don't try to be like me—successful, confident, self-sufficient. Not a carrot, learn the English language as well as your native language, then you can be more economically competitively because I don't speak your language. Republican stick: I don't want to compete with you on a level playing field and I am in control, so I will make a rule that says you will not ever have a chance to catch up with me.

As if the major political parties of America needed any further demonstration of their differences, H.R. 123 is another prime example from its intent to its description. The Gingrich Republicans labeled it the English Language Empowerment Act, but to the Democrats it is the English-only bill. When we look at the dif-

ferences in the political parties, this can be another prime example of the arrogant, elitist demeanor of the Gingrich Republicans who do not subscribe to the basic principles of polite society and guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution that we don't all have to be the same to be acceptable.

I support programs to assist immigrants and other non-English-speaking persons to learn the English language. Furthermore, I believe it is important that our Government provide these individuals every opportunity to achieve this goal. However, at the same time, we must remain respectful of the traditions and cultures of those who came to America in search of safety, economic opportunity, a new life. No law should ever be passed which states, or even implies, that immigrants to the United States must give up their native language or traditions. It is, in fact, the intermingling of such diverse peoples which has made our country so great and this must be remembered. I am one of the fortunate Members who is privileged in representing a district that is diverse with a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual constituency. We celebrate our diversity in all things and oppose any efforts to impose a one-size-fits-all mentality for language.

One example of the ill-conceived results of this bill would be to discontinue bilingual ballots. As the cultural makeup of our Nation continually changes, so too must the Government adapt to most effectively serve the needs of all its citizens. In 1992, when Congress passed the Voting Rights Improvement Act authorizing bilingual registration forms and ballots to communities with bilingual populations, there were over 88,000 people in Cook County, IL, who had not previously been able to vote because they were not fluent in the English language. One of the most fundamental rights that we Americans are guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution is the right to vote.

Voting, justice, education, economics, and safety are just some of the areas where language should not be a barrier to access or equality. This bill, in attempting to discriminate against non-English-speaking persons, begins an unfortunate precedent.

I urge my colleagues to defeat this legislation.

PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we have established a congressional advisory panel to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. This bipartisan, multiideological panel is an important step. During the 104th Congress, I have spoken out often and devoted more time and energy to teen pregnancy prevention.

The "Kids Having Kids" report recently released by the Robinhood Foundation gives the alarming costs and consequences of teenage childbearing. It shows that teenage childbearing costs U.S. taxpayers a staggering \$6.9 billion per year and the cost to the Nation in lost productivity rises to as much as \$29 billion annually. The consequences to the families and the children of these teen parents in health, social, and economic development are devastating.

Let me just list a few of the report's findings about children born to teenage mothers:

They are more likely to be born prematurely and 50 percent more likely to be born low birthweight than if their mothers had waited 4 years to bear them.

They are twice as likely to be abused or neglected.

They are 50 percent more likely to repeat a grade and perform significantly worse on cognitive development tests.

The girls born to adolescent moms are up to 83 percent more likely to become teenage moms themselves.

The sons of adolescent mothers are up to 2.7 times more likely to land in prison than their counterparts in the comparison group. By extension, adolescent childbearing in and of itself costs taxpayers roughly \$1 billion each year to build and maintain prisons for the sons of young mothers.

"Kids Having Kids" is the most comprehensive report done on the costs and consequences of teenage pregnancy to parents, children, and society. This groundbreaking report graphically illustrates this financial loss in terms of social and economic costs to our Nation.

I commend this report to all of my colleagues as essential reading.

Yesterday, the House passed the welfare reform conference agreement, with the Senate expected to vote on it today. This welfare reform legislation will then be signed into law by the President. However, we should realize that this alone will not prevent or drastically reduce teenage pregnancy. A far more expansive effort will be required to motivate and encourage young people to take positive development options rather than the negative options that result in teen pregnancy.

We, in the House, missed an opportunity to make a statement about teen pregnancy prevention and to provide funding for the \$30 million Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative requested in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill. Thirty million dollars is less than one-half of 1 percent of the 6.9 billion tax dollars per year spent on teenagers once they become pregnant and give birth.

Each year approximately 1 million teenagers become pregnant. Once a teenager becomes pregnant there simply is no good solution to the problem. The best solution is to prevent the pregnancy in the first place.

Teenage pregnancy is a condition that can be prevented. It is critical that this Nation take a clear stand against teenage pregnancy. Devoting more energy, resources, and funding to preventing teen pregnancy will not only save us money in the long run, but it will also improve the health, education and economic opportunities of our Nation's youth.

The situation is urgent. I encourage other House Members and Senators and all Americans to unite in a sustained, comprehensive effort to prevent teen pregnancy.

MANDATORY ARBITRATION VIOLATES CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, many employers are forcing their employees to relin-

quish their civil rights by requiring them to sign contracts mandating arbitration under the employers' terms.

This past week, the New York Times told about another victim of mandatory arbitration—a woman named Michele Peacock.

As the July 28 article points out, Ms. Peacock's sexual harassment case against Great Western Mortgage Corporation was compelling, but she will probably never be able to take her case to court because her company required her to agree, as a condition of her employment, to mandatory arbitration under terms that were highly advantageous to her employer. I ask that this article be included in the RECORD.

Members of this body have the opportunity to ensure that employees don't sign away their civil rights at the corporate door by cosponsoring a bill introduced by myself and Mr. MARKEY, the Civil Rights Procedures Protection Act, H.R. 3748.

H.R. 3748 would prevent the involuntary application of arbitration to claims that arise from unlawful employment discrimination. It would amend seven federal statutes to make it clear that the powers and procedures provided under those laws are the exclusive ones that apply when a case arises.

This bill would also invalidate existing agreements between employers and employees that require employment discrimination claims be submitted to mandatory, binding arbitration, while allowing employees who want to resolve their claim under arbitration to elect to do so voluntarily.

I urge Members to support this bill.

[From the New York Times, July 28, 1996]

WORKERS WHO SIGN AWAY A DAY IN COURT

(By Roy Furchgott)

When Michele Peacock left the Great Western Mortgage Corporation in January 1996, she and her lawyers thought they had an ironclad sexual harassment suit, one rife with examples of on-the-job innuendo. At an Atlantic City convention, she said, one executive tried to maneuver her into bed as a chance "to get to know you better." Ms. Peacock sued. "I wanted my trial by jury," she said. "There is no doubt in my mind that I would win. None."

But like an increasing number of American workers, she will probably never have her day in court. When Ms. Peacock, 31, joined Great Western she was required to sign a contract that mandated that any dispute with the company would be settled through binding arbitration. The human resources manual contained the rules for arbitration: the company would pick the arbitrator, whose fees would largely be paid by Great Western; Ms. Peacock could not win punitive damages or recover lawyers' fees; her lawyers could not question opponents and she would get no documents before the hearing. Ms. Peacock is now suing for the right to take her case to court. Tim McGarry, a spokesman for Great Western, said the company did not comment on pending litigation.

Ms. Peacock is not alone. Employers increasingly use employment contracts not only for traditional purposes—protecting trade secrets and limiting competition from former employees—but to be able to dismiss employees without being sued and to insulate themselves from discrimination suits. A poll commissioned in 1995 by Robert Half International, a headhunting firm, found that 30 percent of United States companies with 20 or more employees planned to increase their use of employment contracts, compared with 17 percent that said they would decrease the use of the contracts.

These contracts for lower-level workers are a far cry from what "employment contract" often brings to mind when applied to top executives—million-dollar bonuses and golden parachute severance agreements. "People are signing away their right to take their claims to Federal court, and they are signing away their right not to be discriminated against," said Ellen J. Vargyas, a lawyer for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Employers counter that employees have abused rights granted under a 1991 amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The law, called Title VII, provides for jury trials and allows punitive damages in discrimination cases. But dismissed workers, employers say, often claim sex, age, race and religious discrimination unfairly.

"An employee who loses a job just has to find one of those cubbyholes to fit their claim in," said John Robinson, the chairman of the American Bar Association's Employment and Labor Relations Litigation Committee in Tampa, Fla. "Everyone is a protected something. Even a white male can claim reverse discrimination."

Employers says that without mandating arbitration, employees would choose jury trials, which are expensive for both parties. "Arbitration brings the recurring costs of discovery and appeals under control," said Mr. McGarry of Great Western. He also said arbitration "levels the playing field."

"A company with vast resources can't wear down an opponent with fewer resources," he said.

Lawyers say courts have been blurring distinctions between "at will" employees, who can be dismissed without being told a reason, and "just cause" employees, who can be let go only for poor work or misconduct. "What's changed is courts in several states find bland statements in handbooks, comments on growing up together and making lots of money in the future, two good reviews and a comment at the company Christmas party" and accept these as a contract, said William F. Highberger, a lawyer at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, which often represents employers.

Such contracts were born in the securities industry, which has long required all employees to sign an arbitration agreement. This practice has withstood several attacks in court, forcing employees into arbitration, where they frequently fare less well than before a jury.

Paul DeNisco of Staten Island is a former trader for Merrill Lynch who signed a mandatory arbitration agreement in 1990. He wanted to sue his employer for age discrimination in 1991 when, at 48, despite years of good employee reviews, he was dismissed during what Merrill Lynch said was a reorganization of Mr. DeNisco's department. In 1995, Mr. DeNisco went into arbitration with what he thought was a strong piece of evidence: a page of notes written in 1992 by a 30-year-old manager.

Nancy Smith of West Orange, N.J., one of Mr. DeNisco's lawyers, said the page was notes taken from a conversation the manager had with Mr. DeNisco's equally young boss. She said the note showed that the manager had been directed to hire someone "our age—male" for another department and showed a predisposition of the company to hire young workers.

Timothy Gilles, a spokesman for Merrill Lynch, said on Thursday, "These notes do not indicate any discriminatory intent or conduct at Merrill Lynch, and the claimant did not attempt to present any evidence to the contrary."

Arbitrators denied Mr. DeNisco's claim.

"I wrote a letter asking the arbitrators for their rationale," Mr. DeNisco said. "They

said they don't have to tell me and they don't want to." No appeal is allowed.

Arbitration need not use previous cases in rendering a decision, and they do not have to provide a written decision, as judges do, or provide for appeals. Arbitrators must make judgments under any rules laid down by the company, and that has caused some arbitrators to turn down these assignments.

"I personally have a problem with it," said Arnold Zack, an arbitrator and past president of the National Academy of Arbitrators. Employers often stack the deck, he said, "and we are for fair play." The National Employment Lawyers Association, made up of lawyers who represent employees, had threatened to boycott arbitration companies that hear mandatory arbitration disputes. The group has since worked out guidelines with arbitrators that halt some practices, like arbitrations in which employees cannot collect lawyers' fees if they win, but may have to pay employers' legal fees if they lose.

Many judges seem to have no problem with arbitration. Not only have they upheld arbitration decisions, but arbitration keeps many disputes out of crowded courts. Some judges are being enticed off the bench by the high pay of arbitration. One employee lawyer, Cliff Palefsky, said arbitrators charged up to \$500 an hour and commonly earned \$300,000 to \$400,000 a year.

Not all courts uphold arbitration, though, and employee lawyers continue to probe for a chink in the armor. One successful challenge was mounted by Jane Letwin, a lawyer in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on behalf of her husband, Bob. According to Mrs. Letwin, when his employer, the Bentley's Luggage Corporation, demanded that all employees, even part-timers like Mr. Letwin, sign a contract agreeing to mandatory arbitration, he balked.

The Letwins said that when he refused to sign, Mr. Letwin was dismissed after eight months at the company. But Mrs. Letwin pressed her husband's claim with the National Labor Relations Board, contending unfair labor practices because the arbitration threat could be used to prevent labor from organizing. Mr. Letwin was reinstated with full back pay. Officials at Bentley's did not respond to requests for comment.

The trend in contracts has not escaped notice in Washington. Senator Russell D. Feingold of Wisconsin and Representatives Patricia Schroeder of Colorado and Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts, all Democrats, have proposed bills to protect employees. The Senate version says it would "prevent the involuntary application of arbitration to claims that arise from unlawful employment discrimination."

For now, experts expect the mandatory-arbitration trend to grow. And employees faced with the requirement on employment contracts appear to have two choices: take it or leave it.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. PATRICIA C. DONOHUE

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I applaud and salute Dr. Donohue on her tenure as President of the National Council for Occupational Education [NCOE].

Dr. Patricia C. Donohue has provided dynamic leadership as the 1995-96 president of the National Council for Occupational Edu-

cation. During her tenure, she focused on initiating exemplary policies and practices in economic development and workforce preparation for workers in our global economy. The NCOE's members are professionals in community and technical college education who serve as workforce development and occupational education resources for legislators and policymakers from various governmental agencies. NCOE also promotes innovative practices in community and technical colleges and tracks student achievement in these areas.

Early in Dr. Donohue's tenure, she convened a strategic planning process which established five critical goals for NCOE for the years 1995-1997.

The first goal is to transform education and training programs and structures to better prepare workers for the 21st century. The NCOE-produced monograph Workforce Development defines the need for national policy in this critical area and identifies strategies necessary for progress. NCOE provided copies of Workforce Development to congressional committees, Representatives, and Senators, for use in their important work on new education and workforce training legislation including efforts to streamline dozens of job training and education programs.

The second goal emphasizes improving legislative relations by the organization. A National Policy Response Team was implemented for this purpose. Team members made monthly visits to agencies and legislators on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The team provided information to legislators and facilitated communication with practitioners. In addition, the policy response team provided quick responses to congressional and agency requests.

The third goal is to collaborate in workforce preparation initiatives. Partnerships have been established with the National Council of Advanced Technology Centers. Network (a Department of Labor project), and the National Council on Community Service and Continuing Education [NCCSCE]. Monographs will be forthcoming from project partnerships with the League for Innovation and the National Center for Research on Vocational Education and also from the joint work with NCCSCE. The National Association for Manufacturing and the National Skill Standards Board are among other partners working with NCOE.

The fourth goal established is to inaugurate a leadership development program. Regional training conferences will be established to implement this goal.

The fifth goal is that of enhancing operating strategies for member services. In addition to improvements in the organization's newsletter, an Internet electronic Web page has been initiated to provide information and respond to questions.

Dr. Donohue also serves on the Commission on Community and Workforce Development of the American Association of Community Colleges [AACC]. She is a coauthor of a Commission Monograph on the community college role in implementing reforms in workforce preparation proposed in Federal legislation.

Again, congratulations and best wishes for continued success in your efforts with the National Council for Occupational Education as well as with St. Louis Community College.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the city of Rockville's Centennial Celebration of F. Scott Fitzgerald. This year-long celebration will commemorate the centennial year of his birth as well as his association with the city of Rockville.

F. Scott Fitzgerald is widely regarded as having been one of America's foremost authors. The novels and short stories he wrote during the 1920's and 1930's were distinctly American in their cultural view, yet the humanity that his characters displayed was universal. His masterpiece, "The Great Gatsby," remains a mainstay in literature classes across the country. Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald passed away on Dec. 21, 1940. He now is buried alongside his wife, Zelda, his daughter, Scottie, and his parents and grandparents at Rockville's St. Mary's Cemetery.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Centennial Committee has done an exceptional job in preparing this year of celebration. In addition to movie nights and theme months—April was "Roaring Twenties Month"—they have planned events to raise public awareness about Fitzgerald's life and his current literary heirs. In September they have planned a "Gatsby Ball" for charity, with all profits from the evening going to Rockville Arts Place. Also in September is the first ever F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference at the Montgomery College Theater Arts Building, located at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus. This event will be marked by the presentation of the first F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Prize to William Styron, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "The Confessions of Nat Turner," as well as many other works, including 1979's "Sophie's Choice."

I know my colleagues will join me in recognizing the citizens of Rockville who have given their time to help in the remembrance of one of America's premier writers: John Moser and Don Boebel, Co-Chairs of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Centennial Committee; Hon. Rose G. Krasnow, mayor of the city of Rockville; the members of the city of Rockville Public Information Office. As this centennial year continues, let us all remember F. Scott Fitzgerald and his literary creations.

CONGRESSIONAL PENSION FORFEITURE ACT

HON. RANDY TATE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Congressional Pension Forfeiture Act with my colleagues, Mr. RIGGS and Mr. DICKEY. The three of us have worked long and hard to define this important, historic legislation to deny pension benefits to Members of Congress convicted of federal felonies. I'd like to thank them for their hard work, and I think I can speak for all three of us in thanking Mr. HOEKSTRA, chairman of the Speaker's Task Force on Reform, for his continued interest and involvement in our efforts.

The Congressional Pension Forfeiture Act combines the best elements of the three bills we introduced separately. The American people are fed up with business as usual in Washington, DC. The last thing that hard-working Americans and their families should expect is to pay for a convicted felon's retirement. No family struggling to pay for their groceries, health care, or education should be handing their hard earned money over to Congressional felons.

This bill has over 50 cosponsors and bipartisan support. I know an overwhelming majority of Americans support this commonsense, historic Congressional reform legislation.

A former Representative was recently sentenced to 17 months in prison for crimes he committed against the American people. But while he sits behind bars, he'll be collecting nearly \$100,000 a year from his taxpayer-funded Congressional pension account. For this Congress to turn its back on the American public and let another Member leave office with his retirement nest egg would be unconscionable. Our bipartisan, consensus bill ends this taxpayer rip-off.

Every Member of Congress has a contract with the working men and women in his district when the Oath of Office is taken: to uphold the public trust. Last year 14 lawmakers-turned-lawbreakers collected \$667,000 in taxpayer-subsidized Congressional pension benefits. We should help hard-working middle class Americans, not Congressional felons.

Our bill states that after the beginning of the 105th Congress, Members who are convicted of a federal felony that is committed while the Members are serving will forfeit their Congressional pensions and will forfeit their matching benefits and increased earnings under their Thrift Savings Plan.

By passing this legislation, we are once again standing up for hard-working American families. Americans who have never broken the law and pay taxes out of their hard-earned money want us to eliminate this egregious policy now.

Passage of this historic legislation will be the crown jewel of the Congress with the strongest reform agenda in forty years. The 104th Congress has done more to reform this institution than any Congress before us. It is what the American people want and it is what we in the House of Representatives should give them.

I urge all my colleagues to lend their wholehearted support to this historic legislation and I ask the House leadership to work with Mr. RIGGS, Mr. DICKEY, and me to bring this important bill to the floor before the 104th Congress adjourns.

TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO D. MARTIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Brooklyn-born Antonio "Tony" D. Martin attended Boston University and the New School for Social Research where he earned his masters degree in health science administration and policy. He began his career in health care 13 years ago at the Metropolitan Hospital Center in New York and later moved to Kings County Hos-

pital Center in Brooklyn. Since 1991, he has served as the executive director of the East New York Diagnostic and Treatment Center [ENYD&TC] transforming it into a fully accredited New York State article 28 health center.

Mr. Martin's success is largely attributed to his belief in teamwork, which has resulted in the expansion and strengthening of the ENYD&TC's role in the East New York community. Through his leadership, the center has actively collaborated with various churches, schools, and community organizations to create and launch health care programs such as: breast health and mammography services; medical and dental clinics; child adolescent mental health clinics; family-based mental health clinics; HIV/AIDS counseling, testing, and education; and mental health services for the homebound. His newest endeavor, a school-based health center placed in local Beacon schools, will provide primary care, mental health, and dental services to students and community residents. In addition to his role as executive director, Mr. Martin serves as a mentor and role model to youth. As a result of this personal commitment, he is a highly popular speaker on both health and youth issues.

Mr. Martin's ability and achievements have been recognized by various organizations and elected officials such as the Lions Club; Rosetta Gaston Foundation; People Alliance Community Organization; Grace Baptist Church of Christ; Reeder Youth Care; Congressman EDOLPHUS "ED" TOWNS; Assemblymen Clarence Norman, Jr., Nick Perry, and Darryl Towns; and former mayor David Dinkins.

His accomplishments are a testament to his commitment to improve both the quality of life and health for Brooklyn residents. I am pleased to introduce him to my House colleagues.

LEXINGTON PARK CORPORATE CENTER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the honor of presiding at the groundbreaking for the Lexington Park Corporate Center, a project undertaken by Millison Development. The groundbreaking ceremony signified the opening of a development which will be occupied by three companies—DCS, Semcor, and the Rail Co.—conveniently located to serve the Patuxent River Naval Base.

The companies that will occupy this new center were not here during the changes brought in the 1940's when this rural community was transformed from one dependent on farming and seafood, to one that is now technology driven.

A family that has been in St. Mary's throughout the expansion and that has played a significant role in what has become one of the broadest expansions of a military base in our country is none other than the Millison family. Theirs is a long and solid history of support of the Navy and small business entrepreneurship. The Millison's family story is worth sharing with my colleagues.

Israel "Jake" Levine was a native of Lithuania. He bought his peddlers' license from a

man named Millison and soon changed his name to reflect the name atop the important document. Israel Millison, who is the grandfather of J. Laurence Millison, the current president of Millison Development, then purchased a store from a Mr. Pearson around 1925 and later sold the business to his sons, Samuel and Hiram.

Hiram Millison continued to operate the store as Millison brothers, even after his brother Sammie left the business, until 1943 when the Government purchased his store and other Cedar Point properties to build the naval base.

When the Navy moved in during the Second World War to consolidate several naval air test bases and establish Patuxent River as one of the premier such bases in the world, many families were very rapidly displaced from their homes and business. Most were forced to leave within 20 days of receiving their property appraisals and then it took 6 months or more to get their money.

Hiram used his money to build a store and restaurant outside the main gate of the new base and subsequently developed a number of properties in the town that became known as Lexington Park. Upon his death in 1965, Hiram Millison's obituary described him as a man who "planted seeds of progress."

Hiram Millison saw opportunity when others were reeling from the trauma of disruption. He proved to be a great visionary—serving as the first president of the Patuxent River Council of the Naval League. This council played an important role in providing the community support for the Navy and the start of a tradition that has become a key reason that consolidation of bases continue to redound to the benefit of Patuxent River today.

Today, we see this same support of the Navy with Hiram's son Larry, who has served as a county commissioner, as a member of the board of education, and, in his role as a businessman, in his support of organizations like the Navy Alliance. Now, another Millison—Rachelle—is involved in the family business and she has proven herself as a citizen with community spirit who will not only continue to reap the seeds sown by her family, but she will also continue to sow seeds for future generations, as her father and grandfather did in the past.

I know that the companies involved with the Patuxent River base are experiencing disruption as a result of consolidations. Employees may be relocating from Crystal City, VA or Warminster, PA.

Aaron Davidson is a native Pennsylvanian. He works for Semcor and along with his wife, will follow his job in Warminster down to Patuxent. In so doing, he has convinced many of his coworkers to follow suit. I want to assure Aaron, and the many other families relocating to this area, that this community is eager to have you and will do everything it can to make the transition for you and other families as smooth as possible.

In the transition and change brought on by this consolidation, I hope that you—like Hiram Millison—will come to find opportunities here and join with the Millisons and other proud families, planting seeds in this great community for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Millison family. Their story of perseverance, community spirit, and patriotism is a shining example of what this great country can produce when opportunity is seized.

TRIBUTE TO TOMMY LASORDA

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Tommy Lasorda. In an emotional address for fans and players alike, Lasorda announced last Monday that he will step down as manager of the beloved Dodgers.

Born in 1927 to Italian immigrants in Norristown, PA, Lasorda's ethnicity is something he has celebrated and cherished. He is an individual who has brought an unmatched level of enthusiasm to the great game of baseball. A man of 1,613 wins, he became the most active manager in baseball—and 12th all-time. In 20 seasons, he led the Dodgers to two World Series championships, four National League pennants and seven division titles. He is one of only four major league managers ever to spend more than 20 years or more with one team. Mr. Speaker, there is so much more at which we could marvel.

Lasorda is the heart and soul of not only the Dodgers, but for all of baseball. He is a man of more funny lines than anyone associated with the game. His personality will be missed. His energy level during a game was unequaled. His enthusiasm and love for the game of baseball is contagious.

His strength to overcome criticism made him one of baseball's greatest engineers. He brought the biggest post-season upsets. Just like many of us here in Congress, he had a love-hate relationship with the media; like most of us, he loved all people.

Lasorda has met the expectations of the people of Los Angeles in an unfailing manner. Off the field, Lasorda gives hundreds of speeches a year to charities, including his annual visit to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's children's organization called 65 Roses.

A man of integrity who brought happiness to millions. A man who brought the game of baseball in a colorful way to the city of Los Angeles. It was the spirit of Tommy Lasorda that drew more than 3 million fans a year to the Dodgers, a record set 10 times.

Today, you cannot mention the Dodgers, without thinking about Tommy Lasorda. As a long time Dodgers fan, I feel honored today to recognize Tommy Lasorda's great contribution not only to the Dodger organization and the city of Los Angeles but to the game of baseball, the Nation, and the world. From the Dodger fans on Guam, we revere and honor Tommy.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing Tommy Lasorda's efforts and well-deserved achievements. Mr. Speaker, today there is no doubt that his great feat will be long remembered and that future players and fans will be inspired by him.

TEENS WHO CARE SALUTED

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize all the participants and

supporters of Teens Who Care, a wonderful program which brings together high school students from throughout Contra Costa County, CA, who volunteer their time and energy to refurbish the homes of seniors and the disabled. While providing a tremendous community service to people whose homes would otherwise fall into disrepair, Teens Who Care also goes a long way toward debunking the myths about today's youth. The students are giving free to those in their community less fortunate than themselves, and they are exhibiting the characteristics of citizenship and compassion which I would hope we all want to see as our generation gives way to the next. I want to pay special tribute to Mary Perez who is the founder and inspiration behind Teens Who Care. Teens Who Care is a very special project, and I know my colleagues join me in saluting the following student participants and supporters who make it possible.

STUDENTS OF "TEENS WHO CARE" 1996

Erin Abney, Leonor Aguilar, Lindsay Carlson, Serena Chew, Ames Cruz, Mike Dias, Andy Dussel, Monica Garrotto, Sonya Harrison, Jason Heltsley, Melisa Henderson, Lacey Hyat, Samantha Kim, Kathy Kreuger, Steve Lamb, Dennis Lenart, and Michael Light.

Also, Bill Lindenmuth, Kathy Malloy, Jamal Marr, Andrea Martini, Olivia Martini, Lee Menken, Melanie Michaud, Sarah Mowdy, Alis Perez, Poncho Perez, Mathew Perona, Marcia Raines, Jocasta Ruano, Ken Stoll, Bill Walsh, Phil Woods, and Micah Zuorski.

VOLUNTEERS OF "TEENS WHO CARE"

Mr. and Mrs. Matt Arena, Barbara Bacon, Doug Boyd, Ruth Derose, Jeff Haydon, Pete Jurichko, Margaret Leshner, Bonnie MacBride, Mike Menesini, Stella Moore, Tom Norton, Vivian Norton, Marcia Raines, Tom Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Stockdale, Brian Weiman, and Joann Zehrung.

CONTRIBUTORS OF "TEENS WHO CARE"

Alwaste of No. California, Ameron Protective Coating System, Bechtel, B.F.I., Business Promotion Center, Citibank, City of Martinez, Clementina Refinery Svc., Creative Croissant, Eagle Awards, Far West Sanitation, Raymond Forrest Tree & Landscaping, Industrial Lumber, Kiwanis Club of Martinez, Longs Drugs, Martinez Community Foundation, Martinez Deli, Martin Painting, Pacific Pizza, P.D.Q. Printing, G.L. Rangel Construction, Redwood Painting Co., Inc., Rhone-Poulenc, Robinson-Prezisso, Inc., S&S Tool & Supply, Inc., Shell Oil Refinery Co., Sheraton Concord Hotel, U.S. Postal Service Letter Carriers, Paddock Bowl, and Martinez News Gazette.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE "SKEET" RICHARDSON

HON. PETE GEREN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of George "Skeet" Richardson, a great American who was a champion of the common man.

Skeet left high school before graduating to serve with the Army Air Corps during World War II, but returned to obtain his diploma and then went on to earn a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

Skeet Richardson served in the State legislature for 8 years, as a Tarrant County commissioner for 6 years, and as mayor of the city of Keller for 2 years. He advanced legislation for workers, civil servants, and the elderly. Skeet also helped make the University of Texas at Arlington a 4-year institution. However, the accomplishment that Skeet was most proud of was Bear Creek Park in Keller. He saw it as his lasting legacy, something that all people could enjoy.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, join me in celebrating the life of an American and a Texan who worked for the people and was known for his independent thinking rather than advancing special interests. We all have something to learn from this great man.

THE 50/50 WELLNESS PLAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the 50/50 enrollment composition rule waiver for the Wellness Plan. I am well aware that the Health Care Financing Administration strongly supports congressional approval of this waiver at this time, given the now certainty that comprehensive legislation to address the 50/50 rule will not materialize in this Congress. The Wellness Plan is firmly positioned to become a full Medicare risk contractor in the Detroit area and beyond once this waiver is achieved. It is the prototype for the type of HMO into which HCFA hopes Medicare beneficiaries will enroll. I urge the leadership to work in a bipartisan fashion to ensure its enactment in this Congress.

UNITED STATES-NORTHERN IRELAND FREE TRADE ZONE

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation that will begin the process of establishing a free trade zone relationship between the United States, Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Irish Republic.

Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 1996, representatives from the political parties in Northern Ireland came together to attempt to change the political landscape of Northern Ireland forever. Past acrimony, grievances, and strife are the subject of the all-party talks. Those participating in the talks have received a clear and powerful charge from the voters of Northern Ireland. That charge is nothing less than to fashion a new, progressive, peaceful, and equitable society for all the citizens of Northern Ireland regardless of their political or religious persuasion. The mandate they have and the responsibility they bear is to secure the peace and common good.

While the representatives to the talks labor to overcome their own burdens of history and to reach into the future, the legislation I am introducing will operate to guarantee the economic future and prosperity for all the citizens of Northern Ireland and the border counties.

Peace in Northern Ireland without hope for a real economic future is a cold peace. Only a society that is capable of competing and thriving in an intensely competitive economic environment can have any real expectation of social and political cohesion. The trade relationship this legislation will engender affords this most troubled region the economic tool to close the economic gap with other more prosperous regions of the United Kingdom and the European Union.

This legislation represents the marker of Congress. It says, very clearly, to all the parties who will be fashioning the political future of Northern Ireland that Congress will walk this arduous path with them. When their road becomes steep and obstacles abound, which will happen in the upcoming talks, this legislation makes it clear that Congress stands by them. This legislation says that there is good reason for them to hope and to strive for a better future.

To our friends in the European Union, I say, join with us in this worthy endeavor. The seminal importance of Union participation and approval is clearly noted. As you review this initiative through the lens of your own policies and regulations, I ask you to consider this legislation in a spirit of liberality, generosity, and creativity. As Jacques Santer so correctly noted in his recent speech to the Irish Institute For European Affairs in Dublin, as he reviewed the prospect of all party talks, "the problems of the future and their solutions are sufficiently to those of the past to require new thinking and new attitudes." Further, I submit that a free trade relationship between the United States and Northern Ireland and the border counties will operate as a new and predictive paradigm for future trade relations between the worlds two most powerful economies.

To our friends in the United Kingdom, I ask you to view this endeavor in the spirit that it is offered. Work with us in a committed and cooperative manner. The special and historical nature of the relationship between our counties should bind us together and make us of one mind as we pursue all possible paths toward a new day for Northern Ireland. Together with the Republic of Ireland and the European Union, you have been carrying the burden of the peace maker. Let your friends lift up some of that burden. While this initiative has some unique attributes, your continued good will and efforts will guarantee that this proposal establishes a new high water mark in all our joint labors to bring peace and prosperity to Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation that I am introducing, puts at the disposal of the United Kingdom, Ireland, and the European Union, the one tool that only Congress can provide. A favorable trade relationship with the United States—albeit one that conforms to the needs of both the EU and GATT—can and will operate as an engine for economic progress. Further, it can do so without noticeable or negative impact on this country's own trade relationships.

Upon effectuation of this trade relationship, much depends upon what the contracting parties to this agreement make out of it. I have every confidence that—with the able assistance of both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland—the people of Northern Ireland and the border will firmly grasp this unique opportunity. In sum, this legislation will

give them the ability to revitalize their economy through trade, not aid.

Mr. Speaker, for all the people of good will in Northern Ireland, their future is before them. Their time is now. Let us join with them on their voyage to a brighter tomorrow. Let us not fail them.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following letters of support for this important legislation.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
JUNE 6, 1996.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you know, there is currently pending for your considerations, draft legislation that would begin the legislative process of establishing a free trade area between the United States, Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Irish Republic. Because of your unstinting efforts to find imaginative ways for your country to assist in securing the peace and prosperity of Northern Ireland and the border counties, I can think of no one better situated to initiate and shepherd this important legislative effort.

The current legislative initiative that you are considering could, in my opinion, represent the key ingredient in bringing a severely disadvantaged area of this island into economic parity with other areas of the European Union. As you know, Northern Ireland and the border counties' area will lose their EU Objective 1 status in 1999, when they reach 75% economic parity with the rest of the union. Attendant funding with that status will be reduced or eliminated. My fear is that there will always be that remaining 25% deficit that cannot be bridged without our acquisition of an economic development tool to close and secure that gap. The proposed legislation before you will achieve that goal and interestingly, assist in achieving the EU's own internal policy of economic and social cohesion and parity.

Mr. Chairman, no area of the European Union has suffered the kinds of assaults on its people or the pressures on its economy as has Northern Ireland and the border counties. There is simply no parallel with any other area in the EU. Standard, unimaginative responses to our current economic reality are likely to fall short. The legislation you are currently contemplating will give us a unique and powerful tool to regenerate and revitalize those areas of Northern Ireland and the border areas of the Republic that have been flattened by civil discord and neglected and forgotten because of geographic isolation and peripherality.

As I look at this initiative, I can state that I am aware of and conversant with the hurdles that will need to be cleared for this legislation to succeed in London, Dublin and Brussels. Innovative solutions will always be met with initial scepticism and doubt. However, my view is that there are no impediments this proposal presents that cannot be managed. As for myself, I can give you every assurance that I will do all in my power as a member of the European Parliament to speed this initiative on its way in Strasbourg and Brussels. I am confident that I will be joined, shoulder to shoulder by my fellow MEPs from Ireland, north and south.

Mr. Chairman, on 10 June 1996, representatives of all or nearly all political parties in Northern Ireland will begin talks to secure the future peace for Northern Ireland. The legislation you are considering could help guarantee the future prosperity of the region. My request of you would be that you introduce the legislation prior to commencement of all party talks to demonstrate that a successful conclusion to those talks can

and will yield a brighter tomorrow. As you move this legislation forward, know that I and my colleagues will stand with you.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN HUME.

IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS, INC.
June 4, 1996.

Hon. BEN GILMAN,
Chairman, House International Relations Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR BEN: I want you to know that the Irish National Caucus supports the proposed Bill creating a Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Northern Ireland and the Border Counties.

Such an Agreement would be a powerful "boost" to those troubled and depressed areas. And since the MacBride Principles would be attached, the "boost" would be done in a way consistent with fair employment and nondiscrimination.

This combined approach—U.S. aid to the most disadvantaged parts of Ireland, with fairness and equality for all—is an approach that accurately reflects your own long record of concern for Ireland.

You can count on our support for this imaginative and practical way of promoting economic stability, justice and peace in Ireland.

Sincerely,

FR. SEAN MCMANUS,
President.

IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE,
June 4, 1996.

Hon. BENJAMIN GILMAN,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Currently pending for your consideration is draft legislation that would, if enacted and approved by all parties, establish a free trade area relationship between the United States, Northern Ireland and the six border counties of the Republic. As we understand it, the draft legislation encourages and expects the participation and eventual approval of the European Union, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

The Irish American Unity Conference is one of the preeminent organizations that have worked to secure peace with justice in Ireland. To ensure a lasting peace it is imperative that economic disparity, a cause of conflict in itself, is addressed. Of particular concern to us are the most economically deprived areas of Northern Ireland, such as West Belfast and the border counties. We have found that this legislation adequately addresses these areas by specifically naming such areas and by the inclusion of the MacBride Principles for fair employment.

Mr. Chairman, we have reviewed this free trade zone proposal and found it to be advantageous to business in both the US and Ireland and we are pleased to support the initiative. We are ever grateful of your own commitment to peace through justice in Ireland, consistently proven through the years you have been in Congress.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you on this legislation.

Sincerely,

IAUC EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE.
JAMES A. DELANEY.
DANIEL P. O'KENNEDY.
NOREEN A. WALSH.
BERNADETTE C. PEHRSON.
MARIE T. SMITH.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
London, England.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: You are shortly scheduled to meet with a delegation from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The delegation will be seeking your support for a legislative initiative that I regard as one of the most promising economic development proposals on the horizon for my beleaguered party of Northern Ireland. The initiative would have a profoundly positive impact on other deprived areas of Northern Ireland and the border region of the Republic as well. I am speaking of the proposed legislation that would begin the process of creating a free trade relationship between your country, Northern Ireland, and the border counties of the Republic.

Mr. Chairman, it was my intention to be with and lead the Irish delegation you are about to meet with to communicate personally just how important this initiative is for the economic future of Northern Ireland and the border counties. Following the recent Northern Ireland election however, the preparations within my political party for the forthcoming all party talks have foreclosed the possibility of my absence from Northern Ireland, even for one day. However, I look towards the very near future when we can meet and personally discuss this legislation as it begins its legislative journey through Congress.

I believe it is very important to communicate to you my personal commitment to do all in my power, both within the SDLP and inside the House of Commons, to support this endeavour. I am conversant with current UK reservations. Together with my parliamentary colleagues I shall endeavour to bring about a sea change in opinion within the current UK government. While the proposed legislation requires the efforts and goodwill from both London and Brussels, I see no barrier that cannot be overcome. This opportunity is simply too important to be allowed to flounder.

Mr. Chairman, the delegation you will meet with speak for me. They will ask you to assist in introducing this legislation immediately. That is my request. What you are being asked to consider will help to bring a new day to Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. Move forward and we will be with you.

Kind regards,

JOE HENDRON, M.P.,
West Belfast.

NEWTOWNGORE, CO. LEITRIM.
May 28, 1996.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you know, there is currently pending for your consideration, draft legislation that would begin the legislative process of establishing a free trade area between the United States, Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Irish Republic. Because of your unstinting efforts to find imaginative ways for your country to assist in securing the peace and prosperity of Northern Ireland and the border counties, I can think of no one better situated to initiate and shepherd this important legislative effort.

The current legislative initiative that you are considering could, in my opinion, represent the key ingredient in bringing a severely disadvantaged area of this island into economic parity with other areas of the European Union. As you know, Northern Ireland and the border counties' area will lose

their EU Objective 1 status in 1999, when they reach 75 percent economic parity with the rest of the union. Attendant funding with that status will be reduced or eliminated. My fear is that there will always be that remaining 25 percent deficit that cannot be bridged absent our acquisition of an economic development tool to close and secure that gap. The proposed legislation before you will achieve that goal and interestingly, assist in achieving the EU's own internal policy of economic and social cohesion and parity.

Mr. Chairman, no area of the European Union has suffered the kinds of assaults on its people or the pressures on its economy as Northern Ireland and the border counties. There is simply no parallel with any other area in the EU. Standard, unimaginative responses to our current economic reality are likely to fall short. The legislation you are currently contemplating will give us a unique and powerful tool to regenerate and revitalize those areas of Northern Ireland and the border areas of the Republic that have been flattened by civil discord and neglected and forgotten because of geographic isolation and peripherality.

As I look at this initiative, I can state that I am aware of and conversant with the hurdles that will need to be cleared for this legislation to succeed in London, Dublin and Brussels. Innovative solutions will always be met with initial skepticism and doubt. However, my view is that there is no impediments this proposal presents that cannot be managed. As for myself, I can give you every assurance that I will do all in my power as a Member of the European Parliament to speed this initiative on its way in Strasbourg and Brussels. I am confident that I will be joined, shoulder to shoulder by my fellow MEPs from Ireland, North and South.

Mr. Chairman, on June 10th, 1996, representatives of all or nearly all political parties in Northern Ireland will begin talks to secure the future peace for Northern Ireland. The legislation you are considering could help guarantee the future prosperity of the region. My request to you would be that you introduce the legislation prior to commencement of all party talks to demonstrate that a successful conclusion to those talks can and will yield a brighter tomorrow. As you move this legislation forward, know that I and my colleagues will stand with you.

Best Regards.

JOHN JOSEPH MCCARTIN,
Member, European Parliament.

TOWER ONE CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Tower One/Tower East on the 25th anniversary of this outstanding multicultural senior housing facility. For a quarter of a century, the New Haven Jewish Federation Housing Corp. has given New Haven area seniors a place to call home in Tower One.

Tower One was a special concept 25 years ago, and is a model to this day. The many distinguished leaders and business people who have taken up the mantle of leadership have helped assure the building's continued renewal. Most important, Tower One is a measure of this community's sense of obligation to its retirees, our parents and grandparents.

Tower One's history illustrates its commitment to people. Through the years, the organization has been creative and innovative in its response to the needs of residents. In the late 1970's, Tower One focused mainly on providing necessities, such as serving meals, filling apartment vacancies, and making building repairs. However, the nature of public housing and the needs of the residents began to change and in response, the board implemented extraordinary reforms. A new management structure for the staff was created, additional committees were formed to help the board deliver social services and plan for the long term. Finally, a new executive director, Dorothy Giannini-Meyers, was named to inaugurate imaginative new programs that would allow residents to keep living independently. The result was the broad array of services now available to residents and the transformation of Tower One from an elderly apartment complex to a caring, close-knit, and involved community.

When we celebrate Tower One's 25th anniversary, we celebrate the values that make families and communities strong—the values that enable Tower One to create a true home for Connecticut's seniors. Tower One is a community where people have fun, where the help and support they need is available. Their religious faith is affirmed, even as they age beyond the rituals of family. We all understand that this is a community that affirms our unity and humanity.

I treasure the yearly opportunity I have to host a holiday party at Tower One because it gives me the chance to share in the holiday celebrations so dear to Tower One's residents. Most important, the seniors at Tower One are able to honor the religious and cultural traditions that keep them close to family and friends. It is truly a place where residents feel at home.

I sincerely congratulate all those at Tower One on this proud occasion. I know that Bob Bachman's leadership will enable Tower One to continue its development and growth. I congratulate Tower One on 25 great years and with it the same success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JEFFREY
GARDERE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jeffrey Gardere was born in Manhattan on May 3, 1956. Although his parents were from the island of Haiti, he was raised in Brooklyn and attended Brooklyn Tech High School. While working full-time, he managed to obtain his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Rochester and, at age 27, received his doctorate in philosophy and psychology from George Washington University.

As a licensed clinician, Dr. Gardere rose from a staff psychologist for the Federal Bureau of Prisons to one of only two African-American chief psychologists. During his tenure, he was instrumental in designing the policy on psychological treatment for HIV-infected prisoners, participated in hostage negotiations at the Atlantic prison siege, and conducted witness protection relocation evaluations

throughout the United States. A focal point in Dr. Gardere's career has been the founding of the Rainbow Psychological Services 5 years ago. This culturally sensitive psychological health care program provides services for children, adults, and families in Brooklyn and the tristate area.

As a reorganized psychological expert on police brutality issues and posttraumatic stress disorder, Dr. Gardere has provided key evaluations and structural recommendations for a major lawsuit against the New Jersey State Department of Corrections. In addition, over the past few years, Dr. Gardere has taken his practice to the air waves, becoming a highly-sought-after media psychologist appearing on every major talk and news show on radio and television. Dr. Gardere is presently negotiating the publication of his book, "How to Raise Your Child in an Urban Jungle" with the St. Martens Press.

Despite his grueling schedule, Dr. Gardere has maintained his involvement in local and humanitarian issues for children and families. His efforts, to name a few, include: hosting gala benefits for nonprofit groups in his home and private clubs; providing mental health consultations for the treatment of Haitian minors in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and consulting with "KISS"—WRKS radio—initiatives on the mental health of African-Americans program.

Complementing his life's work, Dr. Gardere, a married father with two children ages 2 and 3, is a musician, singer, pianist, alto-sax player who has performed with Mickey Bass, John Hicks, Louis Haynes, and Hilton Ruiz. Dr. Jeffrey Gardere has won the respect of his peers and serves as an example of the best in our community. I am pleased to introduce him to my House colleagues.

CONGRESSIONAL REFORM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, July 31, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

MAKING CONGRESS WORK BETTER

Early last year at the beginning of the 104th Congress, the House passed some significant reforms of the way it does business, some of which were useful and others of which were not. While additional reforms and rules changes should be considered now, I believe there are serious overriding problems in the House that affect its effectiveness, accountability, and public respect.

RECENT REFORMS

Several of the reforms passed last year to make Congress more open and accountable were based on the work of the bipartisan Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress, which I cochaired. Significant reforms included streamlining the committee system, cutting staff, and opening up Congress to more public scrutiny.

One of the most significant reforms was congressional compliance, which requires Congress to live under the same laws we pass for everyone else, including workplace safety and labor laws. It simply makes no sense for Congress to pass a law and then exempt itself. In the 103rd Congress we passed congressional compliance for the House, and early in

the 104th that was extended by statute to the entire legislative branch. I am concerned about some of the delays this session in bringing Congress into full compliance, but overall this has been a worthwhile reform.

ADDITIONAL REFORMS

Certainly additional reforms are needed to address specific problems. I was particularly disappointed that the House leadership decided not to accept our Joint Committee recommendation to have private citizens help us investigate ethics complaints against Members of Congress. The difficulties the Ethics Committee has had this session show that the House simply cannot police itself without outside help, as charges against Speaker Gingrich and others keep being put off and are never resolved one way or the other. The addition of ordinary citizens to the process would force action on cases that could be held up indefinitely under the current system. A variety of professions—from lawyers to clergy—have moved away from self-regulation to involve outsiders; Congress should too.

We also need to better publicize special interest tax breaks hidden away in revenue bills; reduce our reliance on huge omnibus bills that allow Members only one up or down vote on a package containing hundreds of provisions; make sure House reform is taken up on a much more regular, ongoing basis; and expand the compressed congressional schedule which limits the time available for serious deliberation.

NEED FOR MORE BASIC CHANGES

But much more than this is needed. We need a serious reassessment of what has happened during this Congress.

One of the key tests of reform is whether it makes Congress a more effective institution—improving our ability to deliberate and pass legislation addressing our nation's challenges. On that test, the reforms have not worked particularly well.

The test is not whether we get something through the House, but whether we pass something that can also get through the Senate and be signed into law. Most Congress-watchers would say that the legislative accomplishments of the 104th Congress have been fairly meager, as Congress has failed to pass a balanced budget, campaign finance reform, Medicare reform, and many other items considered top priorities early on. This dissatisfaction with the accomplishments of the 104th is shared by the public. Despite reform, public confidence in Congress remains low.

OVERRIDING FACTORS

So what has happened? My basic view is that although we passed some significant reforms, they were simply overwhelmed by two other factors: the centralization of power by Speaker Gingrich and the increased partisanship of the 104th Congress.

CENTRALIZATION OF POWER BY SPEAKER

All of us who have been active in reform over the years have talked about the need to centralize more power in the office of the Speaker. But I believe this has been carried too far this Congress, with too many key policy decisions taken away from the committees and instead made behind closed doors by the leadership or by task forces set up by the leadership. For example, the bill to sharply cut back Medicare was basically written in the Speaker's office and proposed amendments to the Constitution have suddenly appeared on the House floor without any committee consideration.

This approach to the legislative process reduces accountability. It is largely a closed process. Most Members, and certainly most Americans, have no way of learning which Members are involved, which positions are

being considered, and which special interests are consulted or locked out. Many Members with significant expertise are simply shut out of the critical formative stages of a bill. Last year's reforms to open up committee deliberations make little difference if an important bill simply bypasses the committee altogether or is largely handled in secret by a leadership task force.

EXCESSIVE PARTISANSHIP

Secondly, I believe many of last year's reforms have been overwhelmed by the excessive partisanship of the 104th. Certainly some partisanship can be expected in the House, but in this Congress it has seemed excessive. As one observer put it, "Healthy competition between cohesive parties has degenerated into bombastic, mean-spirited, and often ugly confrontation." When the House becomes too negative, too bitter, too contentious—and there is plenty of blame to go around on both sides of the aisle—that clearly affects our ability to come together to pass legislation for the good of the country. Indeed it can be a much greater roadblock to effective governance than many of the procedures that were reformed early this Congress.

I believe that reducing the excessive partisanship of the House should be our number one priority. By every indication, whichever party controls the House next session will do so by a slim margin; we must learn to work together in a more bipartisan way if we want to get important legislation passed for the good of the country. That is something I will certainly work to bring about.

Fortunately Congress has a self-correcting mechanism for excessive partisanship. In recent weeks as Members have gone home to their districts and have heard from their constituents that they just don't like what they are seeing, the partisan tensions in Congress have been reduced. It is too early to see if this will continue, but it has been a positive and welcome development.

BIG BROTHER IN ATLANTA

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, on July 31, two Taiwanese students were arrested at the Olympic Games in Atlanta for waving the flag of the Republic of China on Taiwan during a ping-pong match.

Mr. Speaker, this defies both the American and the Olympic spirit, and the authorities who made the arrest ought to be ashamed of themselves.

Apparently, a citizen of the People's Republic of China, who happens to be chairman of the International Table Tennis Association, called the police and asked that the students be arrested.

Teaming up with this privileged member of the elite from a Communist country in order to snuff out the free speech of two individuals right here in America is a disgusting reminder of how far the so-called civilized world will go in order to appease the Communist bullies in Beijing.

What an ugly stain on the Olympics, Mr. Speaker.

PERMANENT PERFORMANCE
REVIEW ACT OF 1996

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Permanent Performance Review Act of 1996. This bill would apply performance reviews to all of the agencies and departments of the Federal Government and thus enable Congress to tackle more effectively both our Government's budget and performance deficits.

Performance reviews enable an organization to measure how successful a program or office is in reaching its goals. With such information in hand, those responsible for making a budget can do a better job in allocating the available resources.

The Permanent Performance Review Act would enable Congress to develop, in coordination with the executive branch, a better picture of the successes and failures among its myriad of programs and departments. Congress could then target more intelligently its resources so that the American taxpayer gets better performance from a reduced number of federally supported programs. Performance reviews would enable Congress to tackle more effectively both the Government's budget deficit and performance deficit.

This bill recognizes that real change will only take place when there is an institutionalized, permanent, and cooperative effort on the part of Congress, the Federal bureaucracy and the President to increase Government's efficiency and to build a framework that can be used to reduce and then eliminate our credit card spending. Whether under Presidents Kennedy, Carter, or Reagan, every recent drive to improve the efficiency of the Federal Government has failed because it was sabotaged by at least one of these three stakeholders who was never allowed to participate as a full partner at the decisionmaking table. It must be a team effort, able to draw upon the support of the American people's desire for smaller, more efficient government.

My bill would establish a permanent commission which would provide that participation for the Congress, the Federal bureaucracy, and the President. The Permanent Performance Review Commission would be appointed by both the President and congressional leaders. The Commission would be responsible for managing self-studies to be conducted over time by all the major Federal agencies. The Commission would hold hearings and consult with the appropriate congressional committee leaders in developing their final performance reviews and related legislative recommendations.

After receiving a performance review, the appropriate standing committee of the House would hold its own hearings and review all of the legislative recommendations of the Commission. These recommendations would become the basis for a bill that would be required to receive consideration on the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, truly effective performance reviews would ensure that Congress can reform this Government so that it serves the best interests of all of our citizens. I thank those members of the Budget Committee who are

original cosponsors of this measure and urge all my colleagues to support the bill.

IN MEMORY OF S. SGT. BENJAMIN
L. GILLESPIE

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, serving in the U.S. Military is one of the most honorable and noble professions one could aspire to. It requires sacrifice, dedication, and commitment. Many of our Nation's finest men and women have served, and are serving in our Armed Services—keeping this Nation strong and free.

This service is not without risk or loss. I want to bring to our attention today that my State, and indeed, our Nation has lost an extraordinary young man while in service to his country. S. Sgt. Benjamin L. Gillespie, U.S. Army, of the 168th Armored Battalion, stationed at Fort Carson, CO, was killed in an unfortunate humvee accident on July 26 while conducting a training exercise.

Sergeant Gillespie was born April 20, 1965, to Ardell and Almon Dean Gillespie of North Salt Lake City, UT, and graduated from Woods Cross High School in 1983. He leaves behind his parents, as well as his beloved wife, Veronica, and son Brandt, as well as many other close family members in Utah, Arizona, and Tennessee.

He enlisted with the United States Army on September 15, 1983, and was stationed in Bamberg, Germany, with the 2/2 ACR where he worked with the East/West German border patrol. Later, he served at Fort Carson with the 27th Cavalry. Later, he served with the Salt Lake City Recruiting Battalion, stationed out of South Salt Lake from 1990–94, before returning to the duty which he loved, which was working directly with the troops with the 168th, again at Fort Carson. He earned many honors during his distinguished career, including two Army Commendation Medals, six Army Achievement Medals, the Gold Recruiter Badge with three Sapphire Achievement Stars, the Recruiter's Ring, the Order of the Cobra, and two Meritorious Service Medals.

He was well-beloved by everyone who knew him. His commanding officer stated that he was one of the finest young men and soldiers he had ever known. Clearly, Sergeant Gillespie was one of the best this country has to offer, and we all mourn that his time was cut short. It is my hope and prayer that the pain and sadness that his family feels at this time will eventually be replaced by the comfort and assurance that his service will not be forgotten, and the knowledge that he has now entered into the rest of the Lord in whom he had great faith.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, our hearts, our thoughts, and our prayers are with the family of Sergeant Gillespie; particularly his young wife and son. May they be blessed and watched over during this difficult time.

PERKINS COUNTY RURAL WATER
SYSTEM ACT OF 1996

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce legislation to authorize two critically important rural water systems in South Dakota, the Perkins County Rural Water System Act of 1996, and the Fall River Water Users District Rural Water System Act of 1996. Both bills are strongly supported by local project sponsors who have demonstrated that support by agreeing to substantial financial contributions from the local level.

Like many parts of South Dakota, these two counties have insufficient water supplies of reasonable quality available, and the water supplies that are available do not meet the minimum health and safety standards, thereby posing a threat to public health and safety.

In addition to improving the health of residents in the region, I strongly believe that these rural drinking water delivery projects will help to stabilize the rural economy in both regions. Water is a basic commodity and is essential if we are to foster rural development in many parts of rural South Dakota, including the Perkins County and Fall River County areas.

The Perkins County Rural Water System Act of 1996 authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to construct a Perkins County Rural Water System providing service to approximately 2,500 people, including the communities of Lemmon and Bison, as well as rural residents. The Perkins County Rural Water System is located in northwestern South Dakota along the South Dakota/North Dakota border and it will be an extension of an existing rural water system in North Dakota, the southwest pipeline project. The State of South Dakota has worked closely with the State of North Dakota over the years on the Perkins County connection to the southwest pipeline project. A feasibility study completed in 1994 looked at several alternatives for a dependable water supply, and the connection to the southwest pipeline project is clearly the most feasible for the Perkins County area.

Past cycles of severe drought in the southeastern area of Fall River County have left local residents without a satisfactory water supply and during 1990, many home owners and ranchers were forced to haul water to sustain their water needs. Currently, many residents are either using bottled water for human consumption or they are using distillers due to the poor quality of the water supplies available. After conducting a feasibility study and preliminary engineering report, the best available, reliable, and safe rural and municipal water supply to serve the needs of the Fall River Water Users District consists of a Madison aquifer well, three separate water storage reservoirs, three pumping stations, and approximately 200 miles of pipeline. The legislation I am introducing today authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to construct a rural water system in Fall River County as described above. The Fall River system will serve rural residents, as well as the community of Oelrichs and the Angostura State Recreation Area.

Mr. Speaker, South Dakota is plagued by water of exceedingly poor quality, and the Perkins County and Fall River County rural water projects are efforts to help provide clean water—a commodity most of us take for granted—to the people of South Dakota. I am a strong believer in the Federal Government's role in rural water delivery, and I hope to continue to advance that agenda both in South Dakota and around the country. I urge my colleagues to support both of these important rural water bills, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House Resources Committee to move forward on enactment as quickly as possible.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, those that have suggested that the use of pesticides by producers of our food supply is not environmentally sound have missed the most important environmental benefit of modern farming: It produces more food from fewer acres, so it leaves more land for nature.

The best possible agriculture for the environment would look amazingly like modern, high-yield technology supported farming. High-yield agriculture is the best available model—and the only proven success for a world that must triple its farm output over the next 45 years, and whose largest demonstrated environmental threat is loss of wildlife habitat.

Our environmentally ideal agriculture must use monocultures, potent new seed varieties, irrigation, fertilizers, and pesticides to get high yields. It must do this because high yields are the most critical factor in preserving millions of square miles of wildlife habitat from being plowed down for lower yielding crops.

These technologies have more than doubled the yields on our farmlands. Since 1960, we have been able to get twice the amount of grain and oilseeds, and feed better diets to 80 percent more people on the same amount of land. If these new technologies had not taken place we would have lost 10 million square miles of habitat, about the land area of North and Central America combined.

Pesticide bans would cause yield reductions that would themselves lead to significant loss of wildlife habitat. Several studies have been conducted to ascertain the yield differences between farming with or without pesticides. According to a Department of Agriculture Economics study, production in crops would drop between 24 and 57 percent without pesticides. Farming without pesticides would cost us 20 to 30 square miles of wildlife by the time world population peaks in the year 2040.

Environmentally sensitive agriculture is one that uses the best possible use of our land—by technology supported fertilizer use and other high-yield methods which most efficiently produce our feed supply and hence protect wildlife species from habitat loss. Our goal must be to produce more food on fewer acres, leaving the rest to wildlife and for future generations to enjoy.

TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON FISH, JR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of one of the greatest Congressmen from New York State, Mr. Hamilton Fish, Jr., my friend and colleague with whom I had the pleasure of serving in Congress during my first term. Although we sat on opposite sides of the aisle, we shared many interests and common goals.

Congressman Fish, who was known for his ability to compromise, worked on some of the major legislation for the last half of the 20th century. He spearheaded legislation for his party which led to the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1988 and the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990. He was a principal sponsor of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, legislation that was denounced by President George Bush as a quota bill. Representative Fish also sponsored amendments to the Voting Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act.

Hamilton Fish's inspiration and leadership will be remembered. He was a tremendous decent man. His legacy to the United States has been legislation like the Americans With Disabilities Act which now allows people with disabilities to be treated equally and to have equal access to buildings, education, and employment.

I will miss him, and I will miss his decency—I believe all Americans will. Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to the family of this fine public servant.

JONES ACT REFORM

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today thousands of agricultural producers across America cannot sell their products to their own U.S. neighbors because they cannot secure waterborne transportation. My own farmers in Michigan can't sell their grain to livestock producers desperately needing feed in the South because there is no means of coastal transportation. American farmers and industry are forced to purchase foreign goods, rather than those produced in the U.S. because there is no means of transportation within the coastal U.S. for American products.

In all parts of the Nation, industry and farmers have watched business opportunities pass them by and go to foreign competitors because of lack of adequate transportation of U.S. goods to U.S. purchasers along our coastal waters. In effect the United States is subsidizing foreign farmers to the detriment of U.S. producers.

This system is contrary to the free-market system and the buy-American philosophy. That is why I am introducing reforms to our Federal maritime law, commonly known as the Jones Act to allow more free movement of agricultural commodities and other cargo within our domestic waters.

Currently the 1920 Jones Act, borne out of national security concerns, requires the trans-

port of goods within the United States be done on domestic carriers, with domestic crews, under domestic flags. My bill is designed to spur economic activity by increasing the means of transportation for agriculture and others goods within the United States and in turn boost the maritime industry which has suffered dramatically in the last 20 years.

My bill that I am introducing today would bring competition to ocean transportation and level the playing field between domestic and foreign carriers by allowing cargo to be carried on foreign ships, while requiring only U.S.-manned crews in compliance with immigration laws, and adherence by foreign carriers to all tax and regulations currently imposed on U.S. ships.

Reforming the Jones Act will strengthen the competitive position of American businesses and agricultural producers. Please lend your support to American industry by helping to promote trade and economic activity throughout the United States.

CORINTH GRANGE NO. 823 CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if there's one organization that has consistently been at the center of American society for generation upon generation, it is the Grange. From its inception in rural America, to the Grange Halls that span across middle America and towns of all sizes and backgrounds today, the Grange has remained the consummate centerpiece for community life.

Mr. Speaker, that is no easy task considering the times and changes we've seen over the course of this 20th century. And that's not to say that the Grange hasn't had to change along with it, because they have. How else can they remain a central part of so many communities? But thankfully, they have remained faithful to those core ideals and principles that have made them a central part of American life.

One such Hall I'd like to make particular note of today is from my congressional district in upstate New York. I'm talking about the Corinth Grange No. 823 who will be celebrating their 100th anniversary later this month. Over the course of 100 years, the Corinth Grange has remained a focal point for community camaraderie and a source of traditional ideals like community service and volunteerism. Mr. Speaker, to me, those are the two ideals to which I most credit the tremendous history and progress of this country. And Mr. Speaker, they have played no less significant role in the history of Corinth and Grange No. 823.

In fact, this fraternal organization is steeped in American history, so centrally tied to our Nation's roots and heritage it is impossible to separate one from the other. It is in places like Corinth, NY, where this rings true to this very day. Because of the work and activities of my fellow Grangers there, the ideals and values that have for so long comprised the American way of life survive today.

That's right, Mr. Speaker, my wife and I have belonged to the Grange for over 25

years now, and I can't tell you how proud I am to be a part of this organization. I have always been one to put community and country above self and it is the Grange that embodies this spirit. In that regard, I always judge people based on what they return to their community. By that regard, all the members, past and present, of the Corinth Grange are truly great Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the Corinth Grange No. 823 will be holding an open house to commemorate their 100th anniversary on August 25 of this year. As they will gather at the Grange Hall on Main Street, I ask now that you, and all Members of the House join with me to pay tribute to everyone who has comprised their history since back in 1896, they certainly deserve it.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3734,
PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND
WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILI-
ATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the record the following letter from the National Conference of State Legislatures [NCSL] regarding welfare reform. As past president of NCSL, I understand first hand the concerns they raise about meeting the work requirements in H.R. 3734 without adequate Federal funding and the potential cost shifts the welfare reform proposal places on States. I supported H.R. 3734 with similar concerns and look forward to working with State legislators during the 105th Congress to see that these concerns are addressed:

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF STATE LEGISLATURES,
Washington, DC July 31, 1996.

Hon. KAREN MCCARTHY,
*U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTHY: The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has long sought federal legislation reforming our welfare system and now urges your support for the conference agreement on H.R. 3734. This legislation builds on the numerous state legislative welfare reform efforts of the past decade and on federal waivers granted in recent years.

We particularly are pleased with the creation of block grants for cash assistance and child care and the programmatic and administrative flexibility they may bring. The inclusion of increased child care funding, establishment of a contingency fund, preservation of child welfare entitlements and preservation of state legislative authority over block grant funds are notable achievements and represent key provisions recommended and sought by NCSL. We are further gratified with the inclusion of several policy options, such as the state option to provide Medicaid to legal immigrants and refugees, recognition of the need for adequate transition time, restructuring of child support collection systems and initiatives as well as an exemption for states from electronic benefit transfer liabilities.

We remain particularly concerned about work participation requirements and a related array of policy mandates and sanctions. These will be troublesome. The flexibility

needed in the work participation area is missing. Furthermore, the Congressional Budget Office has repeatedly warned of the multi-billion dollar shortfall in federal funding for work efforts. We recommend that Congress and the Administration collaborate with state legislators and others to review and evaluate work requirements, state experiences with these requirements, funding needs and worker placement and job retention accomplishments commencing with the 105th Congress.

We continue to question policy changes in H.R. 3734 regarding income security accessibility for legal immigrants and refugees. We remain convinced that H.R. 3734 will produce unfunded mandates and cost shifts to state and local governments of unacceptable proportions. We strongly recommend that Congress and the Administration immediately begin an analysis and review of state experiences regarding income security program availability for legal immigrant populations, particularly children, the elderly and the disabled. Those provisions of H.R. 3734 regarding legal immigrants should be tested against the intent and objectives of S. 1, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995, and Executive Order 12875. This recommended review and analysis should involve state legislators and other officials.

H.R. 3734 represents a number of policy compromises. It also offers states new opportunities to manage a welfare system most Americans agree needs restructuring and redirection. Despite some of its aforementioned shortcomings, we encourage your support for H.R. 3734 and urge you to work with state legislators to ensure its success.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL E. BOX,
*Majority Chairman,
Alabama House,
President, NCSL.*

JAMES J. LACK,
*State Senator, New
York, Immediate
Past President,
NCSL.*

WOMEN'S BUSINESS TRAINING
PROGRAM

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to authorize permanently a very successful, low-cost, community-based program that I created as part of the Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988, to train and counsel current and potential women business owners.

Mr. Chairman, women entrepreneurs remain an increasingly significant part of the U.S. economy. They account for approximately one-third of all U.S. businesses and are starting businesses at twice the rate of men. Masked by these impressive statistics, however, is the fact that women encounter numerous obstacles trying to start, maintain or expand a business—obstacles which must be eliminated if we are ever to realize the full potential of this dynamic sector of our economy.

While all small businesses have common challenges—access to capital, for example—there are particular problems faced by women. In 1988, the Committee on Small Business heard testimony from dozens of women business owners on this issue, and one area

which was repeatedly cited was a need for business training to teach women financial management and technical skills. The women's business training program, which is the subject of today's legislation, thus was established as a pilot program to see if it could help fill the training void. I can report to you today that it has exceeded our hopes for it.

Currently, the authorization for this program expires at the end of fiscal year 1997. My bill does not change any of the terms or conditions of the program; it simply removes the expiration date, thereby allowing existing training centers to plan their futures with more certainty, and encouraging States and locales without centers to try to establish them.

As befitting a program administered by the Small Business Administration, this program takes a very business-like approach to fostering and assisting women entrepreneurs. Organizations experienced in business counseling and training may submit to the SBA proposals for Federal funding to start a training center. The proposals are very competitive for a number of reasons, including the facts that Federal funds for the program are limited, are given for a maximum of 3 years, and must be matched by non-Federal assistance according to a specified formula. I can assure you that such terms weed out all but those who are the most committed to assisting women entrepreneurs and are the most likely to be able to keep their center operational when Federal assistance ends after 3 years.

If, as one says, the proof is in the pudding, let me now turn to that. Eight years after getting off the ground, there are currently 54 training sites in 28 States, with each center tailoring its style and curriculum to the particular needs of the community—be it rural, urban, low income, or linguistically or culturally diverse. More than 55,000 women have sought and benefited from the training and counseling in business management, marketing, financial and technical assistance offered by the centers. The centers have directly led to business start-ups, expansions and job creation. Equally important, the program has also prevented business failures.

Mr. Chairman, I could spend hours giving concrete examples of the accomplishments of this program and describing the experienced and talented people who put enormous time and energy into running their sites. I will, however, take just a minute to give a few examples:

There is a site in Mississippi where the National Council of Negro Women operates the training program, essentially "circuit riding" from place to place to bring assistance to rural women who are or want to be business owners.

The Center for Women and Enterprise in Massachusetts, a new site, has been given \$150,000 by the Bank of Boston toward the center's matching fund requirement. I think this says volumes about the center's importance to the community. The director of this training site has a Harvard MBA and experience in microenterprise development in South America.

The Ms. Foundation has given a grant of \$150,000 to the site in Ukiah, CA, a rural area some hours north of San Francisco. This training center is one of the many still up and running even though its Federal start-up funding has ended.

One of the earliest sites started under the program, run by the National Association of

Women Business Owners in Chicago, remains operational 4 years after it stopped receiving Federal money under this program. For mere seed money in the late 1980's, we are still helping women get their economic footing.

Mr. Chairman, this program has since its inception received broad bipartisan support in both houses of Congress. It does what we want most Federal programs to do: runs on a shoestring, produces concrete results, reaches and benefits a wide array of individuals, permits only a finite and brief period of financial aid to any one recipient location, and requires no bureaucracy to run it. This program works and it puts people to work. I urge all Members to support this bill and I look forward to its quick passage.

HONORING AMERICAN WORKING MEN AND WOMEN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to commemorate our Nation's Labor Day holiday, and to honor New York's vibrant and diverse work force. Appropriately enough, before Congress adjourns, we will have passed a bill to raise the minimum wage and sent it to the President for his signature. This marks a tremendous victory for those people who have been working tirelessly to ensure that this vital, and long overdue, action be taken. Many people deserve praise for their work on this and other issues, but I would especially like to recognize the New York State AFL-CIO, the Long Island Central Labor Council, the New York Central Labor Council, and the Building and Construction Trades Union of the AFL-CIO, as well as all of you in the labor community who have united to work together against the antilabor sentiment that has pervaded Congress in the last 18 months. Your immeasurable support in this effort has assisted Congress in finally, after 7 years, passing a much-needed raise in our Nation's minimum wage, as well as staving off several vitriolic attacks on our Nation's workers.

In a short time, those workers who have been scraping by on \$4.25 an hour will get some relief for their families by earning a little bit more. Right now, the minimum wage is at 40-year low in terms of purchasing power. The simple fact is that people can no longer raise a family on this kind of wage. Yes, it's a small step, but it's no secret that it's a step that most Americans have desired for a long time. In fact, 80 percent of the American public supports this raise. Additionally, this legislation is the essence of family values—in other words, by enacting this measure, we are truly valuing our families. In my view, it is a simple matter. If we don't assist, nurture, and encourage our families to attain a higher standard of living, how do we expect America as a whole to succeed?

However, this labor-unfriendly majority has, for some time now, been a virtual roadblock in the way of achieving meaningful legislation such as this, as well as other important labor and family related matters. We need to continue to be in the business of improving, not undercutting, the well being, and survival, of our families. Nonetheless, whether its been in

the form of striker-replacement legislation, allowing companies to raid the pensions of its workers, crafting a bill to mandate employer-led organizations to address labor issues, or cutting funding for important agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA] and the National Labor Relations Board [NLRB], the Republican leadership has strived to make it more difficult for American workers to have access to safety and security in their jobs. These actions do not send the right message to hardworking Americans, and I intend to ensure that trend is reversed.

Lastly, through the persistent efforts of those such as my colleague Senator TED KENNEDY, we are also able to pass a serious first step toward meaningful health insurance reform. This bill will affect at least 25 million Americans who either change or lose their jobs, or have preexisting conditions in their family that has, up until now, given insurance companies an excuse not to offer comprehensive health insurance. That is patently unfair and just plain wrong, and I have consistently made sure that these concerns are addressed properly.

Working men and women have been the glue of this country ever since its inception, and I heartily salute them on Labor Day 1996. I strongly urge my colleagues to commemorate with me the workers of New York and their families on this day, and I look forward to a time when all Americans can feel safe in their jobs and financially secure in their lives.

TRIBUTE TO THE EIGHTH BRONX PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the eighth Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade, which will be held this Sunday in my South Bronx congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, this year, like each of the past 7, Puerto Ricans from all five boroughs of New York City, and from Puerto Rico have come together to march along the Grand Concourse, the South Bronx, in celebration of Puerto Rican traditions, music, and history.

Under the leadership of its President, Adolfo Carrión, Jr., the parade has continued to grow attracting thousands of visitors from New York State and other areas of the United States. This year more than 400,000 participants are expected.

The 1996 Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade will commemorate the centenary of the flag of Puerto Rico. In its honor, participants will march carrying the Puerto Rican flag with pride.

Mr. Speaker, the idea and design of the Puerto Rican flag were conceived in New York City. On December 22, 1895, a group of Puerto Ricans patriots met at Chimney Hall, between 25th Street and 6th Avenue, in Manhattan, to approve a resolution for the adoption of the Puerto Rican flag. The flag which was presented that day was sewn by Ms. Mima Barbosa.

The parade will also honor and recognize the Puerto Rican community for transforming New York City into a bilingual city. It is in their honor that we celebrate Puerto Rican culture and the Spanish language.

The parade will feature the music of "La India," Pete "Conde" Rodriguez, and Ray Sepulveda, among other performers. It will be a day of joyful celebration of Puerto Rican heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who have made possible the celebration of the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade—8 years of bringing joy to the community.

IN APPRECIATION OF ROBERT BITZER

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Bitzer of Shelbyville, IL. For half a century, he touched many lives as a selfless community leader and businessman. Mr. Bitzer passed way on July 18, leaving behind a legacy of hard work and dedication.

Mr. Bitzer was born March 30, 1923 in East St. Louis, IL. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in business administration. From 1945 to 1947 he assumed the role of Chief Illiniwek and made an appearance in the Rose Bowl. Though such an experience would often lead to a lifetime of storytelling, those who heard the story of this modest man, only heard it from others.

As a World War II veteran, he went on to serve as president of Bitzer-Taggart Motor Co. for 44 years. During this time, his tireless involvement in the community led some to dub him "Mr. Shelbyville." He was an instrumental force in the development of Lake Shelbyville and served as the chairman of the Lake Shelbyville 25th Anniversary Celebration. His numerous leadership positions in the community were rewarded with the Business Ethics and Social Involvement Award and the Outstanding Businessman Award from the city of Shelbyville. Despite his unwavering dedication to the community, his family was always his first priority.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Bitzer was a model citizen whose humble service and dedication were the archetype of "leading by example." His life is an inspiration that we can all look to with pride, and do our best to emulate. It is a privilege to represent him in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN CLARK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as president and CEO of Managed Healthcare Systems, Inc. [MHS], Karen L. Clark has pioneered the concept of community-based managed care in New York City. In leading MHS from its inception 2 years ago to its current position as the fourth largest provider of Medicaid managed care in the city, Ms. Clark has demonstrated that a minority-controlled and operated, for-profit health maintenance organization [HMO] can successfully deliver quality health care to residents of inner-city neighborhoods that

have traditionally lacked extensive medical and health services.

With a mission to improve the quality of life for Medicaid recipients and other medically underserved citizens by elevating their health status, MHS, under Ms. Clark's stewardship, has designed a health plan that seeks to increase its members' utilization of services by helping them foster a relationship with a primary care physician, educating them about the importance of wellness and preventive care and offering them a series of creative outreach and case management programs.

Ms. Clark brings extensive experience in health care management to MHS. A graduate of Rider College and the Columbia School of Business, Ms. Clark was senior vice president for Healthcare Management Alternatives [HMA], an innovative inner-city health plan in Philadelphia, from 1989 to 1993. At HMA, Ms. Clark was responsible for quality assurance, utilization review, and provider relations for approximately 85,000 residents of South and West Philadelphia.

Prior to joining HMA, Ms. Clark served at Travelers Health Network of New York from 1987 to 1989, initially as director of operations and provider relations and then as executive director. As executive director, she was responsible for development and maintenance of the provider network for the Travelers' managed health care division in Metropolitan New York and northern New Jersey.

Ms. Clark has also exemplified her pioneering spirit through prior positions with such companies as Whittaker Health Services, Interracial Council for Business Opportunity, Managed Health Plan, Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York, Manhattan Health Plan, and Lancaster & Co.

As a shining beacon of hope, Karen Clark has made a difference through her tireless undaunted mission to improve the health of urban communities faced with diminished resources. I am pleased to introduce her to my House colleagues.

THE JOHNSTOWN ASSOCIATION OF LIFE UNDERWRITERS 75TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity before the House to congratulate the men and women of the Johnstown Association of Life Underwriters on its 75th anniversary.

JALU was founded in 1921. Since that time it has been a dedicated community service-oriented organization, coordinating numerous public service efforts over the years with the Salvation Army, the St. Vincent DePaul food banks, and New Day.

The organization, whose members are from Cambria, Somerset, and Bedford Counties in my home State of Pennsylvania, has won numerous national and state awards for public service throughout its existence. For the past 3 years, the JALU has been working to raise funds to establish the first scholarship fund for Cambria County Area Community College.

One of the most notable activities in which they engage annually is hosting a summer pic-

nic for underprivileged children. It means so much to those kids to know that these adults care about them—it makes such an impact on those young lives that I can't emphasize enough its importance. It's that kind of involvement in the community that we need more of and I want to applaud and thank this organization for its service in that regard.

I also want to applaud their tenacity in the face of economic hardship and corporate downsizing within the insurance industry because they've been able to keep their agencies open and continue to provide the kind of professional service the area needs and has come to rely on.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my daughter and son-in-law, Angela McDonald Thomas and Juan Demeris Thomas, on the birth of their child, my new granddaughter, Ramia Regina McDonald Thomas. Ramia was born on Tuesday, July 23, 1996, at 10:07 p.m. at the Sutter Roseville Hospital in Roseville, CA, weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz., and 20.5 inches in length.

The relationship between grandmother and grandchild is a special one and the bond between grandmother and granddaughter is one that has been cherished by millions of women around the world. I shall love Ramia and cherish every moment that we spend together. I shall do my best to provide her with the benefit of whatever knowledge that I have gained over the years. I will share with her many good experiences, as well as those that I wish to forget and hopefully be a bridge to our family's past. Once Ramia is armed with the knowledge of her forebears, she can chart a course for her future.

In Africa, a family's wealth was judged by the number of children and grandchildren they had. By my heritage, I am a wealthy woman. I have five wonderful children, Valerie, Angela, Sherryl, Keith, my daughter-in-law Lori Blair McDonald, and son-in-law Juan Demeris Thomas of whom I am proud. They have blessed me with Ayanna Damaris McDonald Thomas, Myles Chandler Millender McDonald, Diamond Sequoia Short (adopted), and new Ramia, four wonderful grandchildren. My husband Jim and I thank God for each and every one of them and we will love them for as long as they shall live.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO CLINICAL TRIALS FOR ENROLLEES OF FEDERAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two bills to give Americans covered by Federal health insurance programs access to peer-reviewed clinical trials when no standard therapies are available to treat their very serious medical conditions.

The first bill would require the Medicare, Federal employee and military health plans, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to cover the medical costs associated with the clinical investigation. In addition, the bill ensures that Federal matching funds under Medicaid would be available to States electing to cover clinical trials in their Medicaid programs. Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make available information about on-going clinical investigations and the results of those studies.

The second bill is limited to a Medicare demonstration project covering clinical trials for cancer treatment.

Both bills stipulate that the Federal Government is only to pay for routine medical costs associated with the patient's treatment, such as hospital room and board, and radiology and laboratory services to monitor the patient's condition. The Federal Government would not be paying for the cost of the investigational agent itself.

Tragically, many patients must turn down these opportunities because they cannot afford to pay the routine costs associated with the clinical trial—a terrible irony, in my opinion, as these plans will cover the same medical treatment if it were provided as part of standard medical therapy.

Until a new therapy, technique or device is proven, many private payers of health care will cover the patient's medical costs. Therefore, I am pleased that one of my home State insurers, Aetna, has been a leader in working with researchers to pay some of the costs of patients enrolled in clinical studies. Such access gives these patients hope that their medical conditions may be improved or even cured, when no other door is open to them.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government already funds potentially life-saving clinical research every year, but bringing breakthroughs into standard medical practice requires these investigations. These initiatives back up the Federal Government's investment in the basic research with financial backing to bring these promises to fruition.

REPEAL OF THE BEER TAX

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which would reduce the excise tax on beer from \$18 to \$9 a barrel. The Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1990 doubled the excise tax on beer to \$18 a barrel. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 included provisions commonly referred to as "luxury taxes" on high-priced items such as boats, furs, and automobiles. All of these luxury taxes have been reviewed by Congress. For example, today we passed the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 which includes a phaseout of the luxury automobile excise tax. The automobile excise tax is the last luxury tax still in effect.

I believe it is time for Congress to look at a repeal of the beer tax. The tax increase of 1990 doubled the tax on beer. Currently, consumers pay 32.6 cents per six pack. This legislation would reduce the tax to 16.3 cents a six pack. The beer tax is an example of an excise tax which affects the average working American.

Congress has repealed and reviewed the luxury taxes which mostly affect the wealthiest of all Americans. We should now review a repeal of the increase on the excise tax on beer. This type of excise tax is regressive and it affects the average American. If we can repeal excise taxes on items that affect the wealthy, we should look at items that affect the average working person. Forty-three percent of the cost of beer is taxes. This is simply too high.

Lately, there has been a lot of talk about tax reform and tax fairness. Repealing the excise tax on beer would help make the Tax Code more fair. Mr. Speaker, I urge Congress to take another look at the beer tax.

SALUTE TO THE NATIONAL STEINBECK CENTER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bestow congressional recognition on the National Steinbeck Center, a national cultural institution located in Salinas, CA, in the heart of my congressional district. The city of Salinas is John Steinbeck's hometown and the Salinas Valley is the setting for some of Steinbeck's most powerful writings. It is only fitting, then, that a national center be located in Salinas, dedicated to the preservation of the art of John Steinbeck and to the celebration of his works and ideas through a variety of historical exhibits and cultural programs.

John Steinbeck was one of our Nation's greatest authors, a native son of California, Pulitzer Prizewinner, and Nobel Laureate. "Grapes of Wrath," which became an American classic, earned him the Pulitzer Prize Fiction Award in 1940. In describing the journey of an Oklahoma family's migration to California during the Depression in the hopes of realizing a better life, Steinbeck achieved worldwide recognition for his keen observations and powerful writings of the human condition. With "Cannery Row," published in 1945, Steinbeck wrote a lively story about life in the thirties in Monterey, a sleepy California fishing village, when life seemed to him to have more meaning, although the conditions were quite different. Steinbeck's fiction represents the character of our people, in particular their vitality and uniquely American qualities. As a resident of California's central coast, John Steinbeck's novels are rich in the portrayal of our region's abundant agricultural heritage, and the locales of his stories are reflective of life and the people of the Salinas Valley. In 1962 he received the Nobel Prize for Literature "for his realistic as well as imaginative writings, distinguished by a sympathetic humor and keen social perception" for his work.

I join the State of California in proclaiming the National Steinbeck Center. The national center will be a world-class museum and cultural center dedicated to Steinbeck teachings and lore. It encompasses one of the largest existing collections of Steinbeck artifacts, papers, and photographs in the world, and commemorates the Salinas Valley's multibillion-dollar agricultural industry, an industry which has earned the valley the designation as the Salad Bowl of our country. The National Steinbeck Center hosts an annual Steinbeck

Festival at the beginning of August, where visitors can immerse themselves in films, tours, panel discussions, and special events depicting Steinbeck's writings. The National Steinbeck Center is not only a tribute to Steinbeck's life and literary genius, but also a unique repository for American culture from the first half of this century.

John Steinbeck's literary accomplishments make him an icon of our cultural heritage. In bringing the plight of the poor and disadvantaged to the forefront of our social consciousness, Steinbeck's writings are as contemporary to modern day societal problems as they were in previous decades. In his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize in 1962, John Steinbeck left each one of us with words to live by: " * * * celebrate man's proven capacity for greatness of heart and spirit—for gallantry in defeat, for courage, compassion and love. In the endless war against weakness and despair, these are the bright rally flags of hope and of emulation."

I ask the Speaker and all my colleagues to join me in saluting the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, CA.

ESTABLISH A VISA WAIVER PILOT PROGRAM FOR NATIONALS OF KOREA

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this measure in support of economic growth and jobs for Americans.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Korea reports that the average visitor from South Korea to the United States spends over \$3,400. South Korean visitors to the United States spent nearly \$2 billion in 1995. This means economic growth and jobs for Americans particularly those in States most visited by South Koreans: California, New York, Hawaii, Guam, Nevada, Arizona, Illinois, and Washington, DC. All indications show that this boom is just the beginning. Today, South Korea has the 11th largest economy in the world and is the 6th largest United States trading partner. We need to take positive advantage of this new phase of South Korean prosperity.

Unfortunately, the United States continues to restrict Korean travelers by not allowing South Korea to participate in the Visa Waiver Pilot Program [VWPP]. Although many more Koreans would like to visit the United States, they find the visa process to be cumbersome. Today, the United States lags behind Canada, Australia, and other countries in cornering the Korean tourist market.

The bill I offer with Mr. JAY KIM would establish a visa waiver pilot program for nationals of Korea who are traveling in tour groups to the United States. Under this bill, Korean visitors are allowed for a period of not more than 15 days. The bill would also establish special bond and notification requirements for tour operators. These include the posting of a \$200,000 bond and approval by the Secretary for a tour operator's application to escort tour groups to the United States.

As we work to strengthen our economy in this country, I am confident that increased rev-

enues generated from Korean visitors will be most welcomed.

LET LEBANON BE LEBANON: GIVE BACK ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a House Concurrent Resolution, expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the territorial integrity, unity, sovereignty, and full independence of Lebanon.

You may ask what that means, and you may ask why it is prudent or necessary to introduce such a resolution. I will tell you.

As a Lebanese-American Member of Congress, I am aware of recent events in the Middle East which despite secret diplomacy may have slowed the peace process. I have seen resolutions introduced in this body which would do the same by calling upon Syria to get its Armed Forces out of Lebanon—as though Syria is the only occupying force that needs to get itself out of Lebanon; as though Syria is to blame for every single adverse thing that has happened to Lebanon in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, Syria is no angel—but Syria isn't the only problem Lebanon has, or that the Middle East has, for that matter. We all know that to be true.

The biggest problem today appears to be that everyone views Lebanon as some kind of bargaining chip, or pawn, to be used by Israel and Syria and then whoever else find themselves with an ax to grind in the region—not an ax to grind with Lebanon necessarily—and they then proceed to grind their axes at will and at Lebanon's expense.

The most recent grinding of axes in and around Lebanon was called Operation Grapes of Wrath. And the axes were turned into shells and rockets and so-called precision weaponry that allegedly could penetrate buildings in the middle of the city of Beirut and search out a floor with a window that supposedly was concealing Hizbollah, without harming the innocent mothers and children also living in that building. But the precision weapons turned out not to be so precise, and more than 100 Lebanese civilians were killed, 400,000 were displaced and many left homeless, injured, and suffering.

This resolution is for Lebanon and about Lebanon. It isn't about Israel or Syria—except that all non-Lebanese forces are asked to get out of Lebanon. It is an idea whose time has come and perhaps a point of discussion in current secret diplomacy and/or other talks.

Another idea whose time has come is that the United States Government—the Congress—the President of the United States—need to reformulate their policy toward Lebanon and they need to reaffirm their support for a country that has long been friendly toward the United States. Not only do they need to reformulate a policy, the policy needs to be implemented.

Lebanon has a government, and it has an army, and it is rebuilding and it is getting stronger and more secure every day. It is time that the United States Government began

looking at and considering Lebanon as the master of its own house—the captain of its own ship—and understand that the United States Government should negotiate directly with Lebanon's government on issues concerning Lebanon and its future.

There is no need for the President, the Congress, or anyone else to look toward Syria to the North, or toward Israel in the South—they have no right to decide Lebanon's future.

As a matter of fact, our Government needs to look backward 18 years ago—and recall United Nations Security Council's Resolution 425 which calls for the withdrawal forthwith of Israeli forces from Lebanon and for which the United States representative to the United Nations voted.

The Taif agreement regarding Syria did not go far enough because it did not call for withdrawal. It did call for a redeployment of Syrian forces to the entrance of the Bekaa Valley and the disarmament of all militia in Lebanon, both of which Syria has ignored.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I introduce this concurrent resolution, urging the President to take the necessary steps to activate the Consultative Group for Lebanon's Reconstruction, which was established by the April 26, 1996, understanding between Lebanon and Israel—entered into after Operation Grapes of Wrath, which rained so much death and destruction upon innocent civilians in the land of my grandfathers.

By this resolution I and my colleagues who cosponsor with me call for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon so that she will no longer serve as the preferred battleground for her neighbors.

It tells the President that he need not wait upon the reconvening of the official Middle East peace talks, or the finalization of a comprehensive peace accord with all nation states in the region—to help Lebanon get non-Lebanese forces out of Lebanon.

The resolution calls upon the President to negotiate directly with officials of the Government of Lebanon on issues pertaining to Lebanon. To negotiate directly means just that—without any middlemen.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I submit this resolution to the House, calling upon Lebanon to assert more independence to assure the international community that Lebanon has the political will and the military capability to guarantee security along her borders, for herself and her neighbors, and to disarm all militia upon the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

Let Lebanon be Lebanon.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST WINNER

HON. DAN SCHAEFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit into the RECORD a copy of the winning entry for the State of Colorado in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. Out of the more than 116,000 secondary students who entered, Kelsey Perkins, of Aurora, CO—Smoky Hill High School—was selected as 1 of 54 national winners of a college scholarship.

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Kelsey Perkins)

Good Morning, and welcome to the American Safari Corporation. I will be your guide for today's tour. What brought most of you here was not the call of the wild, rather it was the call of America. Today we will be conducting a tour in search of some rare species. Now I'm sure that some of you have been told that our search is futile since the price we are seeking is often considered to be almost extinct. I'll let you be the judge of that. For those of you who are not familiar with our goal today, let me begin by telling you that we are searching for some responsible Americans. Before we set out, I will outline three identifying marks of a responsible American which will help you in our hunt.

The first sign of a responsible American is often that of involvement in our country's armed services. In many countries across the world, military service is mandatory for young men. They have no choice in whether or not to serve their country. In the United States we have no such requirements. Service is voluntary during peace-time. The strength of a country's military is often the standard by which it is judged by other nations. The military is not only a fighting force, it is an international representative of its country. Service shows patriotism and pride for one's home. The armed forces serve the common good by protecting America's interests in all areas, and by embodying the strength, skill, and patriotism that symbolizes our country and fills every American with pride. For many citizens, military service offers the perfect opportunity to answer America's call and take on responsibility for our nation. Our armed forces have very high standards for their applicants. By meeting this standard of excellence through service in the armed forces, many men and women are successfully answering America's call to responsibility.

The second tell-tale mark to look for in our hunt is involvement in the government. Perhaps one of the best days to search for responsible Americans is on the first Tuesday in November. They can be seen in herds as they assemble to vote. In a day and age where many people are content to sit on the sidelines and not become involved in our government, utilizing one's right to vote and becoming involved in the government is a sure sign of a responsible American. As President Harry S. Truman observed, "It's not the hand that signs the laws that holds the destiny of America. It's the hand that casts the ballot." Responsible Americans not only participate, but realize what an honor their role in government is. Our founding fathers risked execution by first daring to give Americans their rights to vote and to be involved in government because their actions of protesting unfair government were seen as treasonous. Since the Revolution, Americans have fought and died in many wars to keep Americans free. They fought and died to maintain our rights which include voting and government participation. As citizens of the United States today, it is our duty and privilege to vote in elections and to be involved and informed about our national and local government. Answering America's call includes meeting these responsibilities which support the rights for which many men and women have risked their lives.

One final way to find a responsible American is to look for those who are involved in community service. Acts of unselfish kindness for the common good or the benefit of others is not too much to ask in a nation which has so much. Community service touches the individual lives which make up this great country. It serves as a testimony

to our country's humanity. Behind the mass of the armed forces and government are the everyday individuals in life which can be touched and inspired by the work of a few citizens who have realized their responsibility as members of this nation. Many organizations work year round to meet the basic needs of our nation's people because we have a responsibility to those less fortunate than ourselves. So, be sure to search for those who spend their free time helping others in such places as food banks, soup kitchens, and schools.

Well, I hope my little overview has given you a better idea of what to look for in your hunt for a responsible American. Don't forget to look for those obvious signs we reviewed: military service, government participation, and community service. With these in mind, you're sure to find a trail. Please also consider yourself in regards to what's been said today. Don't be afraid to answer America's call personally. By doing so, you could greatly increase the responsible American population. They don't have to be an endangered species.

DAYTON POWER AND LIGHT HONORED

HON. FRANK A. CREMEANS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. CREMEANS. Mr. Speaker, the Dayton Power and Light Co., which serves my district, was honored in a Capitol Hill ceremony here in Washington, receiving the Edison Electric Institute's Common Goals Special Distinction Award for outstanding achievements in community responsibility/special needs.

Mary Kilbane, DP&L's school program coordinator, and Ann Farmer, manager, corporate communications, were presented the award by EEI president Thomas R. Kuhn.

The award recognizes DP&L's energy conservation and environmental awareness patch program. The course uses hands-on activities, visual aids, and creative learning techniques to teach Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in the company's service area about energy production and conservation and how these functions affect the environment. When participants complete certain requirements, they qualify as energy smart citizens. Scouts receive a colorful way to go patch with second-year students able to earn a Lucky the Dog pin. With such incentives, DP&L's program in 3 years educated more than 10,500 scouts and leaders.

I want to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Dayton Power and Light for receiving the EEI Common Goals Award and for its good work on behalf of a better community. Congratulations, DP&L.

THE BALANCE THE BUDGET FIRST ACT OF 1996

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation that will repeal the automatic annual pay adjustment for Members of Congress that was written into law by a previous Democratic Congress, making clear that

pay for Members should not be increased until the Federal budget has been balanced.

I decided to introduce this legislation for two reasons. First, as public servants, we shouldn't be accepting automatic, backdoor annual pay increases. I believe that pay raises for Members of Congress should only happen after debate in the open, on the House floor, so that the American people will know that we are doing.

Second, I believe that this body has no business accepting a pay raise until we've balanced the budget. This body has been granted a public trust by the American people to keep our Nation's fiscal house in order, and the Congresses of yesteryear have not kept their part of the bargain. Instead, Congress has run up a \$5 trillion national debt that our children and grandchildren will have to pay off.

While I know that some Members have been in Washington so long that they view the act of balancing the budget as an exercise in futility, the simple truth is that we can balance the budget in 6 more years if we have the political will to do so. When this body shows the fortitude to balance the Federal budget, then, and only then, will we be deserving of a pay raise.

ENFORCE ENVIRONMENTAL AND LABOR SIDE AGREEMENTS

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I introduce this bill today to help enforce the environmental and labor side agreements sold to the Congress by President Bill Clinton to obtain ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA].

NAFTA's detrimental effect upon both the environment and the American worker are being further realized the longer we allow current practice to continue. Today, I propose a mechanism that requires the President to verify the enforcement of the side agreements that were used to gain Congressional approval of NAFTA. Unfortunately, these well-intentioned, feel good side agreements have no teeth, and thus, provide none of the environmental or labor protections promised during the passage of NAFTA.

My bill requires the President to certify to Congress, on an annual basis, the compliance of NAFTA parties—Mexico, Canada, and the United States—with the side agreements. Should a party fail to meet certification, the United States will deny financial assistance—including loans or extension of credit by international financial institutions—to that country. As a last resort, targeted tariffs against products most benefitting from side-agreement noncompliance may be pursued.

In short, my bill merely requires the President to verify side-agreement compliance and creates a mechanism to help ensure Mexico enforces its own laws. It is my hope that such enforcement will protect the environment and economy of the United States, two things that are endangered under current practice.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE'S PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of my colleagues a very constructive public education campaign that has been undertaken by the American Jewish Committee [AJC], an organization with which I have had the pleasure to work with for many years.

As part of its mandate to promote tolerance and safeguard the essential ideal of pluralism, the AJC has run full-page advertisements in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and other publications enunciating the theme, "It Takes All Kinds." The AJC statement proudly commends our country for having achieved, to an extent nowhere else on Earth, a common dream of freedom. But, at the same time, the statement acknowledges that this dream has been subject to challenge. From the recent series of church burnings, to the increasingly loud voices that promote division along racial, ethnic, and religious lines, and with the threat of domestic and international terrorism within our borders, America's common dream is threatened by the haters and the dividers.

I applaud the American Jewish Committee for the service it has performed in raising public consciousness of the danger posed to all of us by those few who espouse words—and carry out actions—of hate and divisiveness, and in inviting us to partake in the daily enterprise of ensuring that America fulfills its promise of freedom, justice, and mutual respect for all.

I ask that the text of the American Jewish Committee's ad "It Takes All Kinds" be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

IT TAKES ALL KINDS

The tired. The poor. The huddled masses yearning to breathe free.

From every corner of the world, from every race, faith, culture and creed, we have come or been brought to America. Separately and together, we have dreamed of freedom. And in America, as nowhere else on earth, we have made the dream of freedom real.

But today, that common dream of freedom, that common pursuit by a diverse people of a stronger and fairer America, is challenged. In communities across the land, suspicious fires lay waste to African-American and other churches, sowing fear and outrage. In the media, in the halls of Congress, on the campaign trail and in the streets, angry voices echo distressingly familiar calls to divide America into "us" and "them" along ethnic, racial, religious and other lines. The well-being of American democratic pluralism—in which each of us holds an equal stake in our nation's future—is in question.

At the American Jewish Committee, we have worked for 90 years to safeguard that essential ideal of pluralism. The task is critical. Too easily and too often, the delicate cords of law and civility that bind society have frayed, setting group against group. When those cords snap, all are threatened, indeed, the essence of America is imperiled.

Join us in the cause of keeping America safe from the haters and dividers. Join us in the vital, daily enterprise of ensuring America fulfills its promise of freedom, justice and mutual respect for all.

A TRIBUTE TO ESTHER LEAH RITZ

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to one of Milwaukee County's truly outstanding citizens, Esther Leah Ritz. As the Jewish Community Centers Association of Milwaukee prepares to honor Ms. Ritz with the Community Builders Award, for her multitude of contributions to our community, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable achievements of this great woman.

Esther Leah Ritz has been nationally recognized for her unfailing and tireless commitment to working for the betterment of Milwaukee County, the State of Wisconsin, and the entire Nation. Esther Leah has held major leadership positions in her Milwaukee Jewish Community Center, Federation, and the Jewish Community Center movement in North America. During her presidency, the Jewish Community Centers Association launched and began implementing the innovative and acclaimed Commission on Maximizing the Effectiveness of Jewish Education which established Jewish Community Centers as full partners in the community process of promoting formal and informal Jewish education and continuity.

Esther Leah has also provided skilled leadership for many other Jewish organizations including Americans For Peace Now, Council For Initiatives In Jewish Education, Council of Jewish Federations, Jerusalem Center For Public Affairs, Jewish Agency For Israel, Joint Distribution Committee, Mandel Institute For Advanced Study and Development of Jewish Education, Shalom Harman Institute of Israel, and the World Confederation of Jewish Community Centers.

In addition to her excellent work on behalf of so many Jewish organizations in our community, Esther Leah Ritz' influence has been felt far and wide. She was worked diligently for the betterment of key Wisconsin institutions such as the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Institute for Wisconsin's Future, the United Way of Greater Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Jewish Community Centers Association on its excellent selection of Esther Leah Ritz for the distinguished Community Builders Award. I wish Esther Leah continued success in all of her endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE CO.

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an Arizona electric company that has done outstanding working the area of electrical efficiency. Recently, the Arizona Public Service Co. won an award from the Edison Electric Institute for its electrical efficiency in architectural design. As you know, we have some very warm weather in the Southwest, just like we do right here in Washington, DC, creating a tremendous demand for

air conditioning and refrigeration. To find ways to make the most efficient use of electricity, the people at Arizona Public Service Co. designed an Environmental Showcase Home. Sacrificing neither comfort nor aesthetics, the home uses 60 percent less electricity and water. Mr. Speaker, I assure you that savings such as this will rapidly add up in Phoenix's large home-building market.

Ms. Pat Vincent, APSC marketing and sales director, was in Washington recently to receive the award from EEI President Thomas R. Kuhn in a Capitol Hill ceremony. My congratulations to Arizona Public Service Co. for this well-deserved honor.

TRIBUTE TO THE GRASSY HOLLOW VISITOR CENTER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding public service of the U.S. Forest Service as it prepares to open the long anticipated Grassy Hollow Visitor Center on California's Angeles National Forest, Valyermo Ranger District. Under the leadership of U.S. Forest Service district ranger Bill Helin, the visitor center will open at a public ceremony on August 17.

The grand opening of Grassy Hollow Visitor Center represents an innovative approach to the management of our natural resources. Recently passed legislation enables national forests to operate facilities largely as a business, reinvesting revenues directly to the specific site generating those revenues. This type of management is attributed largely to unique community-based partnerships involving the Forest Service and local citizen groups in the area. This is an indication that the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well at the Forest Service.

Like other similar facilities, the Grassy Hollow Visitor Center will be a gateway to our local national forest. More than providing information to the general public and our youth, this center will share tenets of responsible land stewardship which is vital to the long-term viability of our local natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, as competition for Federal dollars becomes more intense over time, the management of the Grassy Hollow Visitor Center provides a model to be emulated across the country. I commend Bill Helin for his leadership in promoting local partnerships and the conservation of our natural resources. It is only appropriate that the House recognize Grassy Hollow Visitor Center as it opens its doors for the first time on August 17.

TRIBUTE TO OLYMPIANS OF THE 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Olympic athletes and coaches from California's 14th Congressional District. Two

schools in the 14th District, both with outstanding academic reputations, have an unusually high number of students participating in the games this year.

Castilleja School is a college preparatory school serving girls and young women in grades 6 through 12. Its students are known for their aptitude and achievements, and now for their athletic accomplishments. Although it is a small school, Castilleja has three alumni in the Olympics. These distinguished athletes are Amy Chow, Laura Korholtz, and Katy McCandless.

Stanford University is one of the most distinguished private universities in our country. Stanford has demonstrated how multitalented its students truly are. Forty-nine Stanford students, alumni, and coaches are participating in the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. These distinguished athletes and coaches are Jennifer Azzi, Nich Bravin, Ray Carey, Amy Chow, Monique Dawes, Janet Evans, Scott Fortune, Catherine Fox, Chryste Gaines, Kurt Grote, Barbara Fontana-Harris, Julie Foudy, A.J. Hinch, Joe Huddephl, Lisa Jacob, Regina Jacobs, Skip Kenney, Kristin Klein, Mike Lambert, Jeremy Laster, Jair Lynch, Rick McNair, Bev Oden, Dave Popjoy, Sherry Posthumus, Richard Quick, Nancy Reno, Jeff Rouse, Katy Steding, Kent Steffes, Fred Sturm, Jenny Thompson, Zoran Tulum, Tara VanDerveer, Erica Wheeler, Wolf Wigo, Jessica Amey, Elin Austevoll, Gus Envela, Claudia Franco, Andrew Gooding, Ted Huang, Eddie Parenti, Sean Pickering, Gabrielle Rose, Brady Sih, Dave Strang, Andrew Vlahov, and Robert Weir.

In addition, there are three remarkable Olympic athletes who reside in my district: Josh Davis, Mary Harvey, and Heather Simmons-Carrasco. These Olympians have distinguished themselves in swimming, soccer, and synchronized swimming, respectively and I am exceedingly proud that these athletes call the 14th Congressional District home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting these remarkable athletes whose determination, prowess, and incredible performances inspire us all. These Olympians who have excelled in both academics and athletics are role models to our Nation and to the world.

EXPRESSING SORROW AT THE DOWNING OF TWA FLIGHT 800

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sorrow at the downing of TWA flight 800, and to extend my heartfelt sympathy to the families of the victims. As investigators continue the difficult chore of determining the cause of the accident, and the torturous process of recovering the bodies, citizens the world over are horrified by this tragedy.

My community of Kansas City, though 1,500 miles from the site of the crash, feels a particularly strong connection to TWA 800. The lives of five Kansas City area residents were taken by the crash. Missouri is home to TWA, and to many of its thousands of dedicated employees, and TWA is the air carrier of choice for many of my constituents.

TWA has a long history of providing safe, secure, efficient, and dependable air transportation. Recently, employee-owned TWA emerged from financial difficulties to post significant earnings and now seems destined for a successful future. In addition, TWA is a responsible corporate citizen that continues its long and dedicated commitment to serving its community.

This tragedy has rightly caused us all to more closely examine safety precautions at airports, and to consider new methods for preventing terrorist activities. Safety and security must be our foremost concerns, and we have a responsibility to ensure that air travel is free from terrorist threat. We must also always bring to justice those responsible for cowardly acts of terrorism.

I again want to express my sympathy to the families and friends of the victims. Those unwitting victims will forever live in our memories. Let us work together and do all we can to prevent tragedies like this from occurring again. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago I had the honor of co-hosting a ceremony during which three private U.S. groups that help the U.S. Government and the U.N. distribute food aid—CARE, Save the Children, and World Vision—signed new working agreements with the U.N. World Food Program. This event provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the inspiring work of U.S.-based private voluntary organizations that help meet basic humanitarian needs worldwide.

Private voluntary organizations, many of them church- and synagogue-based, have played important roles in promoting U.S. humanitarian and foreign policy objectives since World War II. Catholic Relief Services, CARE, Save the Children, World Vision, and other U.S.-based groups have been key participants in one of the most successful U.S. foreign policy initiatives of the post-war era: the Food for Peace Program. Since the enactment of the Food for Peace statute in 1954, the United States has distributed nearly \$55 billion in food aid in 150 countries. U.S. food aid, much of it distributed by private voluntary organizations, has saved millions of people from starvation and improved the health and quality of life of tens of millions of others. Private U.S. development agencies, medical teams, and refugee groups have enhanced the living standards of countless others in the developing world.

Americans take pride in the impressive humanitarian achievements of U.S. private voluntary organizations, whose work has been generously supported by millions of U.S. donors. But some Americans may not be aware that the work of these groups also supports important U.S. foreign policy interests.

U.S. food aid has promoted economic development in dozens of countries. Economic development has turned many food aid recipients into big markets for U.S. farm exports, and it has enhanced the political stability of

many friendly countries. U.S. food aid has also helped ease the transition to market-oriented economies in many former communist countries. The efforts of other private voluntary organizations to build homes, teach skills, care for the sick and wounded, and shelter refugees have eliminated many of the underlying sources of political violence and military conflict.

The role of U.S. private voluntary organizations overseas has been extraordinary: no private-public partnership has been more effective in promoting key U.S. foreign policy goals. Americans owe these groups considerable gratitude for their vital contribution to our humanitarian objectives, our national security, and our international prestige.

But the dedicated and talented people who work for U.S. private voluntary organizations would not want note to be taken of their work without some attention also being paid to the human deprivation that still exists in the developing world. We need consider only the stunning data on world hunger to gain a sense of the scope of the world's unmet humanitarian needs. More than 13 million children die from hunger-related causes every year—an average of 35,000 each day, or 1,500 an hour. More than 180 million children are seriously malnourished today; many of those who survive will never reach their full physical and intellectual potential. The U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts that world food aid needs will double just in the next decade. Yet the food aid budgets of many countries are declining, food prices are rising, and farm surpluses are low.

U.S. food aid spending has been declining since 1993. The major farm bill enacted into law earlier this year included several measures that will make U.S. food aid programs more effective, but there is a limit to what we can do with declining resources.

Most Americans support U.S. Government food aid and other assistance to the world's poorest people. They want to help people in need, and they recognize that alleviating suffering make the world more secure and peaceful. As they learn more about the essential role played by private voluntary organizations in implementing the humanitarian programs of U.S. foreign policy, I am confident Americans will want to expand and improve those programs.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that we can bring this veterans' preference bill to the floor today.

I would like to congratulate Chairman JOHN MICA and ranking Member JIM MORAN of the Subcommittee on Civil Service on their work to craft this bill.

During a hearing held by the subcommittee in April, representatives of the veterans service organizations articulated concerns that the inevitable work force reductions, agency restructurings, and experimentation with more flexible personnel rules have great potential to

undermine veterans' preference. The provisions of H.R. 3586, which provide veterans increased protections during reductions-in-force, and which strengthen the administrative redress system should violations of veterans' preference occur, will ensure that those fears are not realized.

Veterans' preference in Federal civil service is a priority which has deserved and received broad bipartisan support in Congress for more than 130 years.

Since the Civil War, there have been statutory preferences in Federal civil service hiring for veterans of armed conflict, including special provisions for veterans disabled in combat and some eligible family members of disabled and deceased veterans.

A number of developments are increasingly affecting the proportion of veterans in the Federal work force and in the private sector. Those who remain of the 15 million veterans of World War II are into or approaching retirement. The youngest Vietnam veterans are already into their 40's and midway through their careers. Subsequent armed conflicts involving Americans in uniform have been limited in scope. It should be expected that the percentage of veterans in Federal employment will decrease as the percentage of veterans in the general work force decreases.

I am heartened by the reports from the General Accounting Office, the Office of Personnel Management, and from the Merit Systems Protection Board that the percentage of veterans currently in Federal employment and being hired by Federal agencies is significantly higher than in the general work force.

The existing preference rules for hiring and retention are generally working well. It is our hope that this legislation will guarantee that veterans' preference continues to be a central element of our civil service system.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3103, HEALTH INSURANCE PORT- ABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY A. FRANKS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the conference report to H.R. 3103, the Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act. Passage of this conference report will ensure that Americans have access to health care coverage.

The conference report before us will bring about much needed reform to the insurance industry. It address such important issues as portability and pre-existing conditions. Individuals will no longer have to remain in a job they do not like in order to maintain insurance coverage. The portability provisions will ensure that individuals will not lose their coverage if they get sick.

The conference report also contains a 4-year demonstration project for tax deductible medical savings accounts for small business, the self employed, and the uninsured. The medical savings accounts will put the individual in charge of his or her health coverage.

Another important provisions of the conference report is the self-employment deduc-

tion for health insurance expenses. Under this provision the self-employed will be able to deduct a certain percentage of their health insurance expenses from their taxes. The deductible will increase from 30 percent to 80 percent in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to enact meaningful reform of our insurance industry. This conference report does that. It is the result of many weeks of bipartisan negotiations. The provisions contained in this report will enable the American people to feel confident about their insurance coverage, while at the same time keeping it affordable. I urge my colleagues to support passage of this conference report.

MEDICARE WAIVER FOR THE WELLNESS PLAN OF MICHIGAN

HON. JOHN DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am joining with a number of my colleagues in introducing legislation to help the Medicare population in Michigan. This bill will make it possible for a longstanding, quality federally qualified health maintenance organization [HMO] that primarily has served the Medicaid population, to become available to Medicare beneficiaries. The Wellness Plan is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) federally qualified HMO serving several counties in Michigan, including the Detroit MSA. The Wellness Plan currently has 150,000 enrollees, 141,000 of whom are Medicaid, 12,000 commercial and 2,000 Medicare.

The Wellness Plan is a nationally recognized leader in providing quality health services to this population. Since 1993, The Wellness Plan has had a Health Care Prepayment Plan [HCPP] contract with Medicare. Technical changes enacted by Congress and effective January 1, 1996, unintentionally prevent the Wellness Plan from enrolling additional Medicare beneficiaries under the HCPP contract.

The Wellness Plan is positioned to become a full Medicare risk contractor but currently is precluded from doing so due to the 50-50 Medicare enrollment composition rule. Given that the Wellness Plan has an established managed care record with respect to both the Medicaid and Medicare populations, and that the Health Care Financing Administration supports The Wellness Plan receiving a plan-specific 50-50 waiver at this time, this bill should be moved through the Congress as soon as practically possible.

INTEGRATING THE \$500-PER-CHILD CREDIT WITH THE EITC TO IMPROVE BOTH

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced legislation to create one seamless system of tax breaks for families with children, combining the best aspects of the earned income tax credit, and the proposed \$500-per-

child credit. My bill will begin to alleviate the problems related to the current EITC such as the marriage tax penalty, the lack of additional help to low-income families with more than two children and especially the high marginal tax rates in the phaseout range. It will give families with children a tax break just as was the intent of the \$500-per-child credit but will do so in a more equitable way with most of the benefits targeted to the lower half of the income scale.

I ask that a description of the bill and a copy of a letter from the Joint Committee on Taxation scoring my bill be printed in the RECORD.

INTEGRATING THE \$500-PER-CHILD CREDIT
WITH THE EITC TO IMPROVE BOTH

Problems to be solved:

1. Current earned income tax credit (EITC)—a vital adjunct to welfare reform because it enables low-skilled people with kids to support themselves by working—has 3 big flaws:

a. contains high marginal tax rates (21% or 16%) during phaseout—when combined with other taxes and phaseouts (i.e. food stamps, housing subsidies, and a possible medicaid voucher), removes any incentive to get ahead because total marginal tax rate can top 100%;

b. contains high marriage penalties (\$6018 + \$750 income tax penalty in extreme case this year);

c. provides no extra help to larger families with greatest need.

2. \$500 per child tax credit in Balanced Budget Act (BBA) was skewed toward upper half of income distribution because it wasn't refundable. Almost half of all children wouldn't get full credit, including all in 2 parent families below following income thresholds (single parent thresholds are each \$3350 lower, but they are more likely to take full dependent care credit):

	With no dependent care credit	With full dependent care credit
1 child	\$17,684	\$21,524
2 children	23,567	29,967
3 children	29,450	35,850
4 children	35,333	41,733
5 children	41,216	47,616
6 children	47,099	53,499
7 children	52,982	59,382
8 children	58,865	65,265

At same time, EITC cuts in BBA hit families hard in upper 'teens and 20's. Example: couple with 2 kids, \$25,000 income, and no dependent care credit gets full \$1000 child credit but loses \$642 of EITC, for net tax cut of only \$358.

Solution:

1. For kids under 18, eliminate personal exemption (\$2550 in '96) and substitute \$1000 credit—provides net tax cuts per child as follows:

15% bracket (about 0 to \$40K taxable 1996 joint return income)—\$618.

28% bracket (about 40K to 97K taxable 1996 joint return income)—\$286.

Upper brackets—credit phases down to same value as a personal exemption for AGIs above \$110,000 (joint) & \$75,000 (household head), thereby providing no tax cut for families above those thresholds.

2. Universal \$1000 credit is refundable for those with earned income and substitutes for a major portion of the EITC—NO PHASE-OUT NECESSARY BECAUSE EVERYONE GETS IT. Provide extra EITC to PARENTS—maximum of \$1665 for couples and net of \$1267 for single parents (due to their lowered tax threshold), phased out at 10% for couples and 11% for single parents.

Advantages:

1. Costs \$11 billion less than \$500 credit + EITC cuts in '97 Budget Res.;

2. Tax cut is progressive;
3. Credit itself is doubled;
4. Maximum EITC marriage penalty cut from \$6018 to \$2770 in '96 & more later;
5. EITC marginal tax (i.e. phaseout) rates cut from 16% & 21% (current law) or 34% (BBA conference report maximum) to 10 and 11%;
6. Provides extra \$618 per child for WORKING poor families with more than two kids;
7. Supports welfare reform in which basic income of able-bodied is wages plus general tax credits plus a general health plan voucher.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION,

Washington, DC, June 13, 1996.

Hon. THOMAS PETRI,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PETRI: This letter is in response to your request of May 22, 1996, for a revenue estimate of a proposal to provide tax credits for certain families with children. The proposal would change the present-law earned income tax credit into a refundable parental credit and would replace the personal exemption applicable to dependents under the age of 18 with a refundable dependent credit.

The new dependent credit would allow a taxpayer a credit equal to 12.5 percent of earned income up to \$8,000 for each of two dependents under the age of 18, the credit would be equal to 4 percent of earned income up to \$25,000. For all other dependents under the age of 18, the credit would be 3.33 percent of earned income up to \$30,000. The maximum credit would be \$1,000 for each eligible dependent.

The new parental credit would be 15 percent of earned income up to \$11,000 for non-joint returns. The maximum credit would be \$1,650. For joint returns, the parental credit would be 18.5 percent of earned income up to \$9,000. The maximum credit would be \$1,665.

The dependent credit would be phased out in two stages. The initial phasedown would reduce the credit for each dependent by 5 percent of modified adjusted gross income ("AGI") in excess of \$75,000 (\$110,000 for joint returns) up to a maximum reduction of \$272. The remaining credit would be phased out as is the present law dependent exemption. That is, the credit would be reduced by 2 percent for every \$2,500 or part thereof by which the taxpayer's AGI exceeds the threshold amount (\$118,150 for single returns, \$177,250 for joint returns and \$147,700 for head of household returns in 1996).

The parental credit would be phased out at a rate of 11 percent of modified AGI in excess of \$11,600 for non-joint returns and 10 percent of modified AGI in excess of \$12,000 for joint returns.

Modified AGI would be equal in AGI plus nontaxable Social Security benefits, certain alimony and child support payments in excess of \$6,000 per year, tax-exempt interest, certain nontaxable pension income and minus certain capital and business losses.

In general, the dependent credit would not be indexed. The second stage phaseout level would continue to be indexed as under present law.

In the case of the parental credit, the credit percentage and phaseout threshold for non-joint returns would be indexed beginning in 1999 at a rate 2 percentage points lower than that applicable to other tax parameters. For other returns the credit percentage and phaseout threshold would be indexed beginning in 1998 at a rate 1 percentage point higher than the rate applicable to other tax parameters.

This proposal, effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1996, would have the following effect on Federal fiscal year budget receipts:

[In billions of dollars]

Fiscal years						
1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1997- 2002
3.5	-19.9	-18.4	-17.1	-15.9	-14.9	-89.7.

Note.—Details do not add to total due to rounding.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

KENNETH J. KIES.

OPPOSES MINIMUM WAGE
INCREASE

HON. ENID GREENE

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. ENID GREENE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, 2 months ago, I voted against the Riggs amendment to increase the minimum wage because I believed it will have negative consequences—particularly for those it portends to help.

I remain convinced that, on its own, increasing the minimum wage will result in the loss of thousands of entry-level and low-wage jobs, which are needed not only by young people but also by those who are seeking to reenter the work force.

Raising the minimum wage is a tax on an employer who is offering someone a job. It is not paid by all Americans, but only by those who seek to employ others. The natural result is that there will be fewer jobs available.

History shows that raising the minimum wage costs jobs. In fact, since 1973, congress has increased the minimum wage nine times. In each case, except one, unemployment increased. The one exception was during the period 1977–79, when the economy was growing robustly at over 5 percent annually. We are not now enjoying such growth. While I sincerely hope to be proven wrong, I remain concerned that raising the minimum wage will cost jobs.

Nevertheless, I voted for the Small Business Job Protection Act today because I believe that the construction of job opportunities for those who seek work will be at least partially offset by the tax breaks for small business that have been added to the bill in conference. Since it is clear that Congress will raise the minimum wage, I voted for this conference report, with its added tax relief provisions because I believe it encompasses the best means we have of softening the negative effects—that is, job loss—of a minimum wage increase during these lethargic economic times.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, I am particularly pleased that this bill contains key provisions from the Adoption Promotion and Stability Act to assist loving, caring Americans who are willing to open their homes and provide permanent, loving and stable homes for adoptive children.

In a successful adoption, everyone wins—the dearly wanted child, who is brought into a loving home; the adoptive parents, who have welcomed the child into their lives; and the birth parents, who know that their child is well cared for. Unfortunately, there are barriers that reduce the number of successful adoptions

such as adoption fees, court costs, and attorney's fees.

As a result, one in seven children in foster care is waiting for adoption, and will wait for up to 6 years. At a time when adoption costs can reach upward of \$20,000, providing a \$5,000 per eligible child deduction to middle and low-income families for qualified adoption expenses offers valuable assistance to those who are willing to give so much to our most vulnerable children.

MICHELLE DORAN McBEAN, A
WOMAN OF CONVICTION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. PAYNE. of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, my constituent, Michelle Doran McBean, will

celebrate her 50th birthday on August 5. This event is a significant one for her since she was not expected to live beyond her 30th year. She was born to Frederick Carl Doran and Pauline Dean Doran in Alexandria, VA. She grew up in Boston where she was educated. It was through her family life that she came to appreciate the family home center that instilled the importance of interrelationships. It was through her environment at Harvard University that the fusion of spirit and intellect was affirmed.

Michelle Doran McBean is a woman of conviction. To best know her is to simply witness her walk of life. It is a simple life based on truth, equality, and peace. It is a life that supports and advocates for others. It is a life that often stimulates and challenges perceptions, assumptions, and agendas for the betterment of all people.

Those who walk along with Michelle eventually come to know a very important principle

that governs her life. It is the principle of truth that is most evident and appreciated by her husband, Nathan, and son, Michael.

An integral part of Michelle's spiritual growth was supported in her acceptance to the Friends School of the Spirit, a national 2-year program. Consistent with who she is, Michelle is formalizing a place, a sanctuary, where people can get spiritual direction when struggling with ethical decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will want to join me as I offer my best wishes to Michelle Doran McBean and her family.